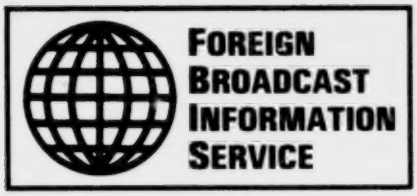

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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Reportage on ACC Cairo Summit Opening Session

Mubarak Addresses Opening

NC1506183489 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1616 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the opening session of the Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in Al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Your Majesty, Brother King Husayn Ibn-Talal; Brother President Saddam Husayn; Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; Brother Prime Ministers and Ministers: Welcome to your second homeland Egypt, and welcome from your kinfolk who are deeply proud of you and look forward to continuing with you the victorious march on the path of noble human struggle for a more equitable and safer world and for an Arab homeland that is stronger and more dignified. This is an Arab world where solidarity and cohesion prevail, where amity and accord replace disputes, and where all Arab resources are pooled to confront the massive challenges facing the Arab nation at this important stage in its history.

It is a good omen that we are meeting after the extraordinary Casablanca summit conference and after the contacts and discussions during this conference, held to close the ranks and establish ties within the one Arab family on clear and firm bases emanating from the common interests and destiny among all the Arab peoples as well as from the common dangers and challenges.

Now that the Casablanca conference is over, we realize that we still have major work to do. We have an important mission to achieve, in fulfillment of our peoples' rights and in loyalty to our present and future history.

Brothers, if we look back at the period that has elapsed since the ACC was signed into existence on 16 February in noble Baghdad, the capital of victory and peace which has witnessed a great many Arab glories in the past and present, we will find that we have succeeded in proving the soundness of the ideological and realistic foundations on which this enlightened bloc was built. It was established in response to the movement of history and the requirements of the age, and its practical implementation has demonstrated the strength of the deeply rooted fraternal bonds that tie us. It has also exhibited our ability to jointly play a positive role within the framework of a wider Arab grouping, which will remain the basic combining framework we are committed to strengthening and entrenching on the regional and international levels.

Brothers, you have seen how the masses in Cairo and Alexandria and along the road came out to give you a warm and enthusiastic welcome. This show of hospitality would not have occurred had it not been for your great status in the hearts of every Egyptian and for their hopes in the earnest and solemn steps we are taking on the path of Arab solidarity and creative interaction among all the sons of our glorious nation.

This massive gathering is a continuation of the march that surged into the streets of victorious Baghdad on 16 February. All the faces in the Al-Rashid capital [Baghdad] and in Cairo bore the same expression, an expression embodying happiness, hope, and self-confidence, and symbolizing loyalty to the greater homeland and a commitment to the sublime values and principles of a purposeful collective action.

Our meeting in Alexandria today recalls for us the first steps taken along the road to unity by Arab countries. In the fall of 1944, Alexandria hosted the general Arab conference, which, on 7 October 1944, resulted in the signing of the protocol establishing the Arab League. The minutes and documents from that conference show that the signatories had given top priority to cooperation in the economic, financial, agricultural, industrial, transportation, communications, cultural, social, health, and political domains. These are the basic elements of cohesion among peoples, and they lead to an identity of views and interests and improved relations among popular groupings and official intitutions, which eventually establish a unified Arab action in the hearts of the people, guarantee its continuation, and protect it from the factors of conflict and disunity.

It was no coincidence that the countries which established the ACC had been at the forefront of the Arab countries taking part in the 1944 conference. They were accompanied by sisters Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon.

With the expansion of this tendency toward geographical unity and the growth of this tendency's roots in the depth of the Arab masses, east and west, it was inevitable that we pass through numerous experiences, some of which were bright and shining, others bitter and painful.

By the grace of God, we were led to the belief that a conscious Arab work which proceeds from a background of reality and is marked by seriousness and sincerity is the one that survives. Such work benefits the people, takes all objective circumstances into consideration, and gains a strength that guarantees its continued confrontation with various circumstances and developments.

Therefore, we have determined in this council of ours to use our potential and resources in the service of our people, according to their priorities and basic requirements. This cause has enjoyed our unanimity since we first considered establishing the council, and we have adhered to this cause in the measures we have taken and the principles we have established.

In addition, we were eager to affirm our rejection of the idea of establishing separate axes within the great Arab family, because our goal is to unite and not to fragment and because the purpose of the ACC is to protect and not threaten, to bring people together and not separate them, to form a grouping but not a bloc, to shine a guiding light and a rational movement, to generate more security and stability for each and every Arab everywhere, and to multiply his ability to confront the challenges facing him. Hence, at the Casablanca summit I proposed establishing relations of cooperation and integration with the two other groupings that have surfaced in the Arab world. We believe that the three groupings fall under the umbrella of the Arab League and their ultimate aim is to accumulate experience in successful examples of inter-Arab action that can benefit overall inter-Arab activity later. We must accept that an experiment that involves a limited number of partners will be more percise and accurate and, consequently, its significance more far-reaching.

Dear brothers, we have an enormous job to do during this session to achieve the goals stipulated by the ACC agreement. By saying so I do not mean to overestimate the possible results of this meeting, but I just want to note the serious steps that have been made since the signing of the ACC agreement, in terms of the scope of the activities to prepare for this meeting as well as the quality of these steps and their soundness. In this respect, we ought to refer to the enormous job done by the senior officials in the four countries headed by the heads of the governments and the spirit prompting to produce such work in a remarkably pan-Arab framework reflecting the spirit that prompted us to set up this council.

In addition to the topics on our agenda, we find it essential to follow developments in the Middle East issue, which is of interest to all Arab peoples, and to reach a common view on what we can do individually and collectively to increase the chances of peace, stability, and reconciliation and to elimiante all sources of war, violence, and tension.

If I were to begin talking about the Iraq-Iran front, we might see a glimmer of hope that the Iranian leadership, in view of recent events, will realize that it is in the interests of Iran and all its neighbors to speed up the steps to turn the cease-fire into a permanent and comprehensive peace. This leadership should realize that there is no feud between us and the Iranian people and that no antagonism can exist between us. The only issue hindering the establishment of strong relations between Iran and all the Arab states is the fact that the situation is one of no peace and no war. Eight years of war have created a gloomy picture for our region and resulted in much devastation, destruction, and suffering.

We say to the officials in Tehran: Let us agree on an acceptable and clear basis to achieve coexistence and good-neighborliness, and then develop them into creative cooperation and interaction that will benefit every Iranian and every Arab. What we have endured during the lean years of war is enough.

Let us turn our attention to the situation in fraternal Lebanon. The bloody tragedy there is still continuing. Fighting is taking place in the capital, destroying everything and terrifying the unarmed and peaceful citizens. No children or old people are spared. We do not accept this violation of the cease-fire following the resolutions of the extraordinary summit conference. Therefore, we hope that the tripartite committee, which was formed at the conference in Casablanca, will be able to resolve the situation as soon as possible to help restore security to this wounded land, bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces, which limit the freedom of choice of the various parties, and allow Lebanon to exercise its sovereignty and end the attempts at partition and separatism, as well as safeguard Lebanon's national and territorial integrity.

The ACC member states will be completely ready to do their best to ensure the success of the tripartite committee's mission. This mission is difficult and hard, and there is no way to diminish its difficulty.

Finally, brothers, there is the Palestinian issue, which is our primary pan-Arab issue, our preoccupation, and the principal axis in our endeavor to spread peace and stability in our area. It is a source of satisfaction to note that this issue is gaining new ground every day and the position of many countries, particularly the important ones that have influence and weight, is becoming more positive and balanced. This prompts us to support the dynamic work which the Palestinian leadership is undertaking in the international arena with the explicit backing of their popular bases inside and outside the occupied territories. This also calls us to differentiate between what is positive and what is negative in any ideas or proposals which are being made to us, with a view to developing them and removing any aspects of blemishes, shortcomings, or weaknesses.

Brothers, providence willed it that this victorious pan-Arab initiative, in which each one of us participated with the same share, enthusiasm, and optimism, should come at a delicate historic moment which constitutes a decisive turning point and a crossroads.

Our people are watching our work with hope and confidence in the future, determined that we will always move forward and on to higher steps and levels of coordination, cohesion, and interaction. We also look forward to other meetings constituting signposts along the road, to be held in Amman and Sanaa, those two cities that are filled with examples of the Arab nobility of descent and that have witnessed much of the Arab glory throughout the ages.

Brothers, we are charting our moves with full faith in the unity of Arab objectives and the inevitable triumph of the forces of right, good, and peace. We draw great strength from the mutual confidence which has been created among us on all levels through multifaceted and multilateral dealings.

May God grant us success and guide our steps. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Hilmi Nammar Approved as Head

NC1506183089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1751 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—The Supreme Council of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] has approved the appointment of Dr Hilmi Nammar as ACC secretary-general. This was stated by [Egyptian] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. [passage omitted]

First Council Meeting Ends

NC1506194989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1859 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Jun (MENA)—The ACC Supreme Council concluded its first meeting here at 2030 this evening.

MENA has learned that the topics on the agenda were reviewed and the conferees approved the formation of the ACC structures. The Supreme Council will resume meeting tomorrow morning to continue discussion of the remaining items on the agenda, particularly those related to judicial cooperation and the movement of the four countries' citizens.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has told MENA that with respect to filling the positions in the ACC, it was agreed by the four countries that the individuals filling these posts should be dynamic and highly qualified and experienced in the various fields of activity required by the nature of the ACC and its ambitious goals. It was also agreed to restrict the number of employees working in the ACC to the minimum to avoid red tape and to facilitate the implementation of decisions.

Nammar Cited on Cooperation

NC1606095487 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Jun (MENA)—Dr Hilmi Nammar, secretary-general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], has said that the ACC was born a giant, for it includes countries that have economic, social, and cultural weight in the region.

In his first remarks to newsmen following his appointment as ACC secretary-general, Nammar said that the ACC did not come from a vacuum, but followed years of bilateral cooperation and coordination over many events in the region. Nammar said that the Council was not founded on empty slogans, but on firm grounds of economic integration and strong political ties. He stated that the ACC will have several priorities in its first stage. Foremost among these is economic integration, for economic unity is synonymous with political power, he asserted.

Dr Nammar said that the Alexandria summit symbolizes the cordiality and fraternity among the leaders and peoples of the four ACC member countries. He added that the decisions made by the ACC leaders will take the interests of every Arab citizen into account.

Concerning the most important sector for economic cooperation among the four countries, Dr Nammar said that the ACC will begin by improving the transportation network, noting that there are plans to sign an agreement in this regard and another on the distribution of electricity supply among the four countries. Nammar said that electricity surplus in one country could be used in another. He pointed out that economic integration should emphasize production more than trade.

Agreements Discussed 16 Jun

NC1606092487 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0757 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Jun (MENA)—The leaders of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] held a meeting in Al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria this morning. President Husni Mubarak, the conference chairman, presided over the meeting, which was attended by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, Jordanian King Husayn, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic. The prime ministers of the four countries and the members of their official delegations also participated in the talks.

MENA has learned that during this meeting, the four leaders resumed their discussion of the ACC's draft constitution, its secretariat, and some agreements which are due to be concluded by the current ACC summit. One of the agreements deals with the movement of citizens between the ACC countries and others deal with judicial cooperation, as well as cooperation and coordination among the interior ministries of the four states. MENA has also learned that the four leaders emphasized the need to intensify economic activity among their countries.

MENA has been informed that President Husni Mubarak briefed the ACC leaders on recent developments in the Palestinian issue and his discussions with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. He also told the leaders about the recent mission of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, in Israel, which was followed by talks between Ghali and President 'Arafat in Cairo.

Peace Plan Features Outlined

JN1506200189 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jun 89 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpt] Political sources have indicated that the summit of the Arab Cooperation Council, which comprises Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic and which will open in Alexandria on 15 June, will discuss an Arab peace plan that is largely based on the recent Arab-international contacts and the Casablanca summit recommendations. The main features of the plan, which was drawn during the recent diplomatic contacts between the four countries and which will be discussed in detail by the foreign ministers of these countries, are the following:

1. Supporting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's demand for asking the United States to define the political rights of the Palestinian people. In defining these rights, the United States should take into consideration international resolutions issued on the Palestinian problem, international conventions, and the Human Rights Charter.

2. Informing the United States that it should endeavor to convince Israeli officials of these ideas, which are defined within the international framework.

3. Requesting the Soviet Union and the European states to play a practical role, transcending the phase of verbal support and sympathy with Arab and Palestinian demands to the phase of starting measures to establish genuine peace.

4. Declaring Israel an "aggressive" state that does not care for peace if it fails to respond to the international efforts exerted in this connection, treating it on this basis, and taking the appropriate international measures in this regard.

Palestinian Affairs

Bush Emissary Reportedly To Meet 'Arafat

JN1506130289 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] According to a high-ranking Palestinian official, an emissary of U.S. President George Bush is to meet with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the next few days while the American diplomat is on a regional tour taking in Cairo, Amman, Damascus, as well as Tel Aviv.

Citing what it called a high-ranking Palestinian source, today's AL-BAYAN said the proposal for a meeting between State Department senior official Dennis Ross and the Palestinian leader came up during the third round of the American-Palestinian dialogue held in Tunis last Thursday [15 June]. The sources wondered about the significance of failure by American envoys to the region to meet with PLO officials despite the fact that the latter are the parties most directly concerned with most of the regional issues. Dennis Ross, he indicated, will meet, during the coming tour, with Egyptian and Syrian Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad, King Husayn of Jordan, and enemy Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The source said he believed Dennis Ross will give the Palestinian president the American Administration's response to a memorandum sent by the PLO asking that the United States recognize Palestinian national rather than political rights and upgrade the level of U.S. representation in the dialogue with the PLO.

PLO Delegation Head Discusses U.S Dialogue

JN1506173789 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 11 Jun 89 p 14

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the delegation to the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Sharif in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH: You said in the statement at the conclusion of the round of dialogue with the United States that the massacres have escalated against the sons of the Palestinian people, particularly in the wake of the visit to the United States by Shamir. What did you mean by this?

'Abd-Rabbuh: The Shamir plan is aimed at ending the intifadah [uprising] politically. The plan, therefore, is in harmony with the criminal and terrorist acts that have escalated recently to liquidate it in a bloody way. Both cases are connected. It seems that when Shamir received a kind of support for his plan, he used this support as a cover to escalate the campaign of terrorism and massacres inside the occupied territory. And this is exactly what I meant.

We would like to note here that Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said in his statements 2 days ago that the occupation army and the settlers have perpetrated one massacre per week in the wake of the visit to Washington by Shamir. He added that this should stop.

AL-THAWRAH: What are the possibilities of holding new American-Palestinian contacts, which you and Ambassador Pelletreau mentioned in the two statements?

'Abd-Rabbuh: Contacts will continue in the next days and weeks. We presented ideas and they will study them. They might give us some answers and new ideas. We are waiting.

AL-THAWRAH: Is there a Palestinian request to upgrade the American-Palestinian dialogue in the future?

'Abd-Rabbuh: We did not ask for that specifically. We said that American envoys tour the region and meet with various parties, but at the same time, they do not meet with the major party, the PLO. We asked how can this be in harmony with embarking on an essential dialogue with the PLO?

AL-THAWRAH: Has the Palestinian leadership made an initial assessment of the recent dialogue?

'Abd-Rabbuh: We presented a report to the leadership on the results of this contact. The report is being studied now. We will reach final conclusions within the next few days.

AL-THAWRAH: There is an impression that the third round of Palestinian-American dialogue contained nothing new or tangible.

'Abd-Rabbuh: I cannot say that we received clear answers. Progress was made in terms of words and statements. This progress can be of value to us if it is accompanied by practical progress. So far, we have not seen essential progress of this kind.

PLO Radio Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

JN1506202289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 15 Jun 89

["Talk of the Intifadah" feature: "The U.S. Administration Speaks Two Languages To Serve Zionist Terrorism Against Our People"]

[Text] O masses in the raging homeland; O giant generations and revolutionary youths; O heroes of our strike forces and our popular army formations. [passage indistinct]

The U.S. Administration, the Bush administration—like previous administrations—intentionally walks in the prohibited zone and speaks two languages. It sometimes condemns terrorism and at other times supports terrorism and provides it with all its requirements so that it will become ugly, effective, and continuous.

When the world stands up to expose the Zionist terrorism against our people and to make the United Nations adopt a resolution to condemn and curb this Zionist terrorism, we find that the United States throws all its weight into the arena, uses every maneuver, and exerts the heaviest pressures. And when all this fails, the United States resorts to the weapon of veto, the last weapon, to foil any resolution and freeze every international move against the intentional, premeditated, and organized Zionist terrorism practiced by the State of Israel through all its leaders, services, and institutions beginning with the army itself and ending with the dirtiest group of the rancorous settlers.

Through this disgraceful behavior, the United States is not satisfied with ignoring the international community, but ignores the simplest facts that cannot be ignored by high-ranking individuals in the Zionist military institution itself like General Mitzna', who resigned from his post, describing the settlers' attacks as dirty acts; the many Jewish groups who stage demonstrations and condemn the crimes perpetrated by the Zionist occupation against our people; and the many reserve officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Israeli army who resign, refuse to serve, or desert from the service because they cannot implement the orders of terrorism issued to them by their commanders.

Therefore, U.S. action that employs this dual langauge is a clear expression of the U.S. Administration's support for the Zionist terrorism—the state terrorism, the settlers' terrorism, and the terrorism of the groups who stand with frozen minds and black rancor against the march of history.

The Americans might say—in defense of their exposed behavior—that they are having a dialogue with the PLO and that they have made a final decision to continue this dialogue. However, it is natural to say that within the framework of international relations, there is no dialogue for the sake of dialogue. Dialogue is held among parties to get results and to move one step at a time to reach these desired results. The objective of our dialogue with the U.S. Administration is to make arrangements to hold an international conference, which is the only way to find a solution to achieve our Palestinian rights represented by completing our independence and establishing our independent Palestinian state. Will this dual American language and the open U.S. encouragement of Zionist terrorism serve the objectives of the dialogue?

The answer so far is no. The frozen Zionist mind, which governs the Zionist entity, is based, in its stalemate, terrorism, and extremism, on the American wall and the unlimited U.S. support for Zionist terrorism.

Without the U.S. vetoes, the American billions that exceed what is declared, without the different American weapons to kill the intifadah [uprising] children, without the various American methods of pressure, and without the continuous American maneuvers, the Zionist entity could not maintain its stubbornness, terrorism, and black crimes. The Zionist occupation—army and settlers—outdo themselves in committing the crimes such as killings, attacks, demolition of houses, deportations, sieges, destruction, terrible acts of racism against our people, and attacking our entire Palestinian heritage, including assaults against mosques and the Koran.

Those who read the Zionist papers or follow the story of the intifadah inside the Zionist entity, will easily find that the limit of strength that allows the Zionist enemy to practice all this oppression, extremism, and terrorism has been reached. But, the support comes from outside, from the U.S. Administration.

Whenever new winds blow at the Zionist entity—winds of the new facts—raising the possibility that the enemy will open its mind to calls for peace, we find that the force of rejection and the encouragement of extremism and arrogance come through different forms from the United States. It is correct to say that the Palestinian confrontation is in fact with the United States, represented by [words indistinct] whose name is the Zionist occupation. As we have said, this U.S. behavior, on which the Zionist behavior is built, depending on terrorism, crime, rancor, violence, and madness, makes our people's only option—with all its generations and forces—to move on one path. That path is to escalate the intifadah, expand its scope, develop its stages, escalate its performance, deepen its roots, and multiply its interactions in all directions. This is because the demand of our people—based on their natural rights—represents the minimum from which they cannot retreat. This demand is the rejection of the occupation—its continuation and presence—and resistance in all its violent and different forms to get rid of the occupation and restore the nationality and independence and establish the independent state on the homeland.

O generations, which deepen this awareness through the great steps; O masses who are staging their blessed, heroic intifadah; O youths who are preparing for our victory: Continue to escalate and gain strength. Greetings to you. We are confident that the comprehensive confrontation, the continuous confrontation, and the continuing splendid performance in every house, street, and district and in every city, village, and camp is our path toward our rights. And on the path of victory we are walking.

Algeria

'Islamic Awakening' Movement Warns Americans

NC1506132689 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Algiers, June 15 (AFP)—An obscure Algerian group calling itself the Movement of the Islamic Awakening has sent a "warning" to embassies here threatening to "take revenge" on Americans on July 4, America's Independence Day.

A text in Arabic and French, without date or signature, said Americans "must pay the prices of their crimes which they continue to commit against Muslims."

It said they would not celebrate the 213th anniversary of the declaration of independence in peace and calm, but "with 'fireworks' in an unforgettable manner."

The Algerian authorities, although skeptical about whether the movement really exists, said Thursday they had taken the necessary measures to protect American interests here.

A frigate from the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean, the U.S.S. Ainsworth, is to call here June 24-27 at the invitation of the city authorities.

The Islamic Awakening Movement first emerged with anonymous tracts some years ago when fundamentalists were put on trial for common law crimes. It was last heard of in October during bloody food riots which the Army put down with a death toll estimated officially at 159 and unofficially at more than 400.

FLN Central Committee Ratifies Resolutions

LD1506030589 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Excerpt] After a 3-day rich and frank discussion, the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee concluded this evening at the Club des Pins the proceedings of its second ordinary session by ratifying the draft resolutions of the political committee related to the economic and social situation in the country, and the relationship of the FLN with the political environment, popular organizations, and information. Our radio delegation, which followed the proceedings closely during the 3 days, summarizes the facts of the final meeting of this session in the following report:

[Unidentified correspondent] The final meeting of the second session of the FLN Central Committee was concluded 1 and ½ hours ago this evening with the ratification of the draft resolutions prepared by the political questions' committee and related to the following points: The economic and social situation in the country; the FLN's relationship with the general political environment; the FLN's relationship with popular organizations; and the FLN's stands toward national information issues.

The resolution on the economic and social situation points out that the governmental program is being implemented in a satisfactory way, but that the relative improvement in the economic and social situation does not represent a solution of the problems the country is facing, therefore efforts have to be continued since the economic crisis persists.

As for the FLN's relationship with the general political environment, the ratified resolution states that the FLN has to continue consecrating democratic exercise in all fields. It also has to accelerate the implementation of all that incarnates the articles of the Constitution.

Until the appearance of political associations, the resolution stipulates the continuation of dialogue and consultation, and rejects all extremist practices that could jeopardize citizens' liberties. All have to be committed to the exercise of democracy. The resolution says further that the FLN rejects all practices that harm national unity, national independence, and constant principles.

The resolution related to the FLN's relationship with popular organizations stipulates that it is a mistake to disperse the dynamic people's forces, and calls for the unity of the popular, vocational, and cultural organizations, and to take them away from the political supervision of associations. The same resolution says that the preservation of this unity requires the exercise of democracy and the organization of youth who submit important issues which have to be examined thoroughly. It also points to the setting up of a student trade unionist organization and calls on students to gather and unite their efforts to shoulder all their problems.

The second session of the FLN Central committee stressed in the resolution related to information the following points: The efficiency of information stems from its truthfulness, therefore, it has to do away with some of the concepts prevailing on the information arena that are contrary to the morals of the profession. The draft law on information submitted to the National People's Assembly will have to consecrate all that the Constitution has brought forth in a way that allows the development of a sincere and efficient national information, and secures the right of the citizen to information and expression. It also stipulates the journalists' practice of their profession in total freedom within the framework of the morals of the profession. The development of party information which was called for by the FLN Central Committee during its first session represents an urgent request in order to show the stands of the FLN which represents the fundamental force for the consecration of the democratic practices in the country. And

finally the examination of the issue of current information institutions separately from the general law on information. [passage omitted]

Central Committee Session Ends

LD1506093589 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The second ordinary session of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee ended its proceedings late last night, following 3 days of discussions which focused upon the economic and social situation in the country, as well as the Front's political relations in Algeria.

A number of important resolutions and decisons were adopted at the concluding session; FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri made a speech at the end of the session, during which he talked particularly about the Front's current and future tasks. He said the following:

[Begin Mehri recording] The FLN Central Committee's concern is with the economic situation facing the country as a whole—it does not want to hide the major, fundamental, and difficult problems which are facing the country in economic and social matters. It sees that the only way to tackle them is to mobilize all forces led by the FLN militants in order to deal with the great challenges which face us today and will again in the future.

The political resolutions which have been adopted by the Central Committee at this session, aim first at consecrating democratic practice as well as delineating the foundations for relations in the political environment and with the rest of the popular forces. They also [word indistinct] the Front's will to face up the situation in the country by way of a healthy grouping of all resources and all forces willing to work to deal with these main and fundamental issues. From today, the FLN wants to lay down the limits which will prevent democracy from slipping into altercations and marginal battles. [words indistinct] with norms of behavior which will prevent the popular forces from dispersing and will enable them, at the same time, to mobilize for the sake of the general interest.

In this respect we have before us information issues. Information is a weapon to consecrate democratic practice, as well as an important weapon to enlighten the people about the country's real situation and to mobilize all its forces in this battle. We have no doubts that brothers working in this sector will take their places in this battle as they have always done. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Cooperation Accord Signed With CSSR 13 Jun

LD1406123789 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Algiers, 14 June (APS)—Minutes of the meeting of the Algerian-Czechoslovakian joint committee were signed Tuesday [13 June] here by Algerian minister of heavy industry, Mohamed Ghrib and the Czechoslovakian minister of fuels and energy, Antonin Krumnikl. The two sides agreed to continue examining possibilities to sell Algerian gas to Czechoslovakia in short and long runs. The agreement also provides for development of relations in the fields of research, hydraulics, construction materials and aeronautic building.

It is worth recalling that 18 agreements have been signed by the two countries since the latest session of the joint committee of cooperation held in 1986.

Egypt

Asyut Security Director's Remarks on March Noted

NC1506214589 Cairo MENA in English 2135 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, June 15 (MENA)—Major-General Mahmud al-Fakharani, security director of Asyut, today (?denied a report) by REUTER news agency that a march was organized in this city during which slogans against the minister of interior were repeated. No demonstrations were organized in Asyut or any other city or village in the governorate, he said.

Israelis Concerned Over Reconciliation With Arabs

JN1506191589 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jun 89 p 1

[By Muhammad Nuwar]

[Excerpt] AL-SHA'B has learned that Israel is preparing to stage military maneuvers in an area close to the Egyptian border with the aim of creating tension in Egyptian-Israeli relations as a kind of protest against the Egyptian-Arab reconciliation reached in the Casablanca summit, especially Egypt's reconciliation with Syria and Libya, which caused concern among top Israeli leaders.

On another level, Israel and the FRG have agreed to modernize the Israeli Navy by supplying it with the most advanced German equipment. [passage omitted]

Israeli Complaint Over Elat Incident Viewed

JN0906150089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jun 89 p 6

[News analysis by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im: "The Death of the Israeli Fisherman and the Strange Concept of Secure Borders"]

[Text] During the past few years, Israel has made a habit of showering us every day with the news of its interception or killing of infiltrators seeking to cross its land borders or attempting to encroach on its territorial waters from the south via the Red Sea or from the north and west via the Mediterranean.

Everybody knows that Israeli guard patrols are constantly deployed on Israel's land borders and territorial waters to check and foil any infiltration attempt which must have "an illegal objective" according to the Israeli perspective. They are supported in this by the international laws and norms which ban all infiltration attempts and give all states the right to use all means to prevent these operations from taking place and to foil these attempts if this is found to be necessary.

The Israeli operations being carried out against infiltrators are confirmed by the statements issued by the Israeli military spokesman. Every now and then, these statements announce the wounding or killing of some of these infiltrators while attempting to cross Israel's wire fences or to invade its territorial waters via rubber boats or fishing ships.

What is strange is that Israel announced approximately 3 days ago that an Egyptian coast guard launch intercepted an Israeli fishing ship 1 km and a ½ meter [as published] south of the port of Elat and that this launch fired on the Israeli fishermen, wounding one of them. Yesterday's news also said that an Israeli fisherman died.

Needless to say, this story does not fall in harmony with the Israeli statements on the firing on infiltrators while attempting to cross Israel's territory or to invade its territorial waters. What further increases the contradictions in the Israeli campaign launched against the measures taken by the Egyptian launch is the news emanating from Cairo affirming that the Israeli boat was sailing several meters [as published] south of Jazirat Fir'awn. It seems that this is a manifestation of an old Israeli habit attracting Israelis to the well-known Jazirat Fir'awn since the forties, and particularly since 1949 when the number of Israelis attempting to infiltrate into this island increased—something which prompted the Tabah area military commander to reinforce the Egyptian patrol activities around Jazirat Fir'awn to prevent Israeli infiltrators from landing on its coast.

As a matter of fact, we do not know the reason behind the commotion created by Israel, especially since the Egyptian troops fired in the air to warn the Israeli boat and asked those on board to withdraw through loudspeakers. It is unthinkable for us to allow any person to invade our borders, be he an Israeli or any other national. However, it seems that the Israelis are very sensitive as regards their borders and that they believe that their concept of secure borders is only applicable to one party; namely, Israel. And this must change entirely, as this is better than creating unjustifiable storms.

AL-WAFD on 'Political Crisis' With Israel

JN0906144589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Jun 89 pp 1, 2

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The political crisis between Israel and Egypt increased this week. The two sides exchanged accusations and submitted sharp-toned protests to each other. In an official protest to the Israeli Government which the Israeli charge d'affaires in Cairo received during the past couple of days, Egypt expressed its great indignation over Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's attack on Islam.

Cairo last week accused Tel Aviv of escalating acts of violence in the occupied territories by insisting on continuing the oppressive practices of the occupation forces and Israeli settlers against the Palestinians. The Israeli Foreign Ministry the day before yesterday protested over the incident in which Egyptian security forces fired at an Israeli boat that crossed into Egyptian territorial waters early this week. The Israeli Foreign Ministry asked the Egyptian Government for a comprehensive report on the incident. Israel recently also protested over President Husni Mubarak's and Egyptian officials' continuous attack on Yitzhaq Shamir's policy opposed to peace in the region. The United States is now trying to quickly arrange a meeting between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to contain the current crisis in Egyptian-Israeli relations. A diplomatic source in Cairo affirmed that Egypt made as a condition a change in the Israeli stand on the current efforts to establish peace in the region and to stop the acts of violence in the occupied territories before it agrees to hold an Egyptian-Israeli meeting. This week also witnessed a noticeable decrease in the number of tourists coming from Israel to Cairo.

The Israeli authorities last Saturday took strict security measures along its border with Egypt after some Palestinian organizations threatened to carry out fedayeen operations against Israel across the Egyptian border. People traveling from Israel to Egypt are thoroughly searched. Egyptian security authorities posted west of the land and sea borders with Israel are beginning to be more cautious in confronting the continuous crossings of Israeli boats into Egyptian territorial waters.

Dailies Deplore U.S. Use of UN Veto

NC1106220389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—The papers AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM have denounced the U.S. use of the veto right to prevent the Security Council from issuing a resolution condemning Israel's repressive policy in the occupied Palestinian territory.

AL-AKHBAR stresses that the only meaning of the U.S. insistence on the use of the veto right is that it condones all Israel's violations of international and ethical laws and principles and that it turns a blind eye to the blatant violations of the most basic human rights.

The paper expresses surprise that the United States demands human rights for the peoples of the Soviet Union, China, and East Europe and that it even imposes

sanctions against any government which the United States itself accuses of violating the human rights of its citizens, but that it fails to do so with respect to Israel.

In a commentary in tomorrow's—Monday's—issue, the paper adds: What is most astonishing in the unjust stand of the U.S. is that 14 states representing all the continents in the world approved the resolution and the United States was the only one to reject it. The paper continues: This means that the United States, which describes itself as the greatest world democracy and defends the rights of all democratic peoples, disregards the most basic principle of this order, that is, submission to democracy.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that Washington's adherence to the defense of all Israel's aggressions and crimes against the Palestinians and Lebanese and most of the Arab states, such as Iraq and Tunisia, conflicts with its role as a partner and mediator in the settlement of the Middle East conflict. Washington's stand gives Israel the green light to continue its stupid arrogance in this region while feeling safe that there will be no punishment, not even in the form of international denunciation resolutions.

AL-AHRAM expresses surprise that the United States has again used the veto right at the Security Council to prevent the passage of a resolution condemning Israel's repressive policy in the occupied territories.

The paper says: The U.S. objection, through a veto, came about despite the fact that in its main point, the draft resolution submitted was, in itself, a pooling of Israeli stands which the United States had previously deplored and which include the expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territory, attacks on villages, and closures of schools. The paper points out that the United States had frequently demanded Israel to stop such practices.

AL-AHRAM explains that the U.S. view is that it is necessary to avoid public international condemnations of Israel so as not to embarrass it and impel it, perhaps, to do as it pleases at a time when diplomatic efforts are being exerted to persuade it change its stands.

The paper points out that this point of view is worth consideration in one instance only—and that is an offhand admission that the United States is capable of getting closer to a solution or of drawing the parties to the solution closer together without resounding hostile campaigns.

The paper then says: If we were to assume the soundness of this attitude, then it is necessary for the effects of the U.S. dealing with the Israeli stand to become clear soon through two main priority issues which tolerate no delay. These issues are the saving of lives which are being wasted daily and a complete halt to the building of settlements.

AL-AKHBAR Editorial

JN1406113589 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jun 89 p 5

[Editorial: "The Only Meaning of the U.S. Veto"]

[Text] Does U.S. insistence on regularly using the right to veto to prevent the UN Security Council from issuing any resolution expressing the dissatisfaction of the international community with the inhuman practices of the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in their occupied territories, mean anything other than that Washington supports these brutal practices, blesses Israel's violations of the international law, principles, and ethics, ignores the flagrant aggressions against the simplest human rights, which the United States demands very ethusiastically for the Soviet peoples, China, and East European countries, and imposes sanctions on every government that it accuses of violating the human rights of its citizens?

What is strange in the unbalanced U.S. position on the sufferings of the Palestinian people as a result of the continuous Israeli aggression is that all Security Council's resolutions which condemn Israel's behavior and crimes against the residents of the occupied West Bank and Gaza always enjoy semi-consensus approval by the 14 other Security Council member states, except the United States. These countries represent the world's continents and the various international affiliations and ideologies. Therefore, they cannot be accused of partiality against Israel. This means that the United States, which describes itself as the greatest democracy in the world, ignores the simplest principle of this system; namely, submission to the majority.

Washington's insistence on protecting Israel's aggressions and crimes against the Palestinians, Lebanese, and other Arab countries such as Iraq and Tunis, as well as its clear contradiction with its role as a partner and a mediator to settle the Middle East dispute is a clear indication that it gives a green light to Tel Aviv to continue its foolish arrogance in that region, while it is safe from any punishments in the form of international condemnation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Restore Relations With Egypt

LD1506095189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will announce at a special meeting to be held by the Libyan Council of Ministers on Tuesday [20 June] the resumption of full diplomatic relations with Egypt and the nomination of the Libyan ambassador to Cairo. According to the Jordanian paper AKHBAR AL-USBU', which published this report, Al-Qadhdhafi will also announce

at this session the nomination of the Libyan ambassador to Jordan. It is recalled that ambassadors of both countries were withdrawn several years ago.

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Ties With Egypt

NC1606091087 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0724 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jun (MENA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that Egypt is the true mainstay of the Arab people. Egypt fights and makes sacrifices for the Arab people whenever sacrifices are needed. Egypt made many sacrifices in the past and this is why we should stand beside it now, Al-Qadhdhafi said.

Al-Qadhdhafi praised President Husni Mubarak, describing him as a man who believes in Arab unity and upholds Egypt's Arab commitments. He described his meeting with President Mubarak in Casablanca as positive and successful. We agreed at the outset of that meeting on the national and pan-Arab strategic goals, on the right of every country to act in accordance with its circumstances, and on nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, Al-Qadhdhafi said.

In an interview published in today's edition of the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Al-Qadhdhafi said: Having met with President Mubarak, I am telling you that I trust him, because he is an honest and sincere man. We have to support him in order to support Egypt and bolster its strength and its role.

Concerning the travel of Libyans to Egypt, Al-Qadhdhafi said that he asked Libyans to travel to Egypt and to be as law-abiding there as they would be in their own country.

The Libyan leader told AL-ITTIHAD that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] has an economic goal. He expressed the hope that the ACC will also have a political function, because economics can give a boost to politics and to national potential. We can look forward to fruitful cooperation among the ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union, Al-Qadhdhafi said, noting that tomorrow's world will not pay much attention to small nations.

Al-Qadhdhafi told AL-ITTIHAD that it is necessary for the Arabs to have a large grouping capable of dealing with a united Europe. He called on the Arabs to find a common formula that would enable them to defend their economic interests in the face of a unified Europe or any other regional grouping in the world.

On the future of U.S.-Libyan relations, the Libyan leader expressed the hope that U.S. President George Bush will behave differently from his predecessor Ronald Reagan. Al-Qadhdhafi said that he is aware that President Bush is being careful to establish his own objective and serious style. This is something which we welcome and believe could be as useful to us as it is to the United States.

The Libyan leader described President Bush as being more prudent and knowledgeable than his predecessor. We are hoping that Bush will utilize his knowledge in reversing Reagan's policies against us. We would welcome such a development, Al-Qadhdhafi said.

Belgian Hostage Freed on Al-Qadhdhafi's Appeal

LD1506184589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] In response to the appeal made by the brother leader of the revolution regarding the liberation of hostages detained in Lebanon, a Belgian doctor, Dr Jan Cools, was released today. Dr Cools was kidnapped on 21 May 1988 as he was driving his car in the Rashidiya camp, in southern Lebanon.

Foreign Liaison Official Cited on U.S. Claims

LD1506093589 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 15 Jun 89

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Paul Hair gave a statement on the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in which he repeated anti-Jamahiriyah claims of the U.S. Administration saying that the inclusion of Libya in AMU will not benefit stability in the region.

A source at the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau commented by saying: "Such a statement is not a new thing and remains within the tone repeated before by other officials of the U.S. Administration against Great Jamahiriyah.

"We are amazed about how can such an official appoint himself a guardian on the region's countries claiming keeness on their stability as though there are not people responsible in those countries guarding their security and stability.

"It seems that such statements from some U.S. officials who did not learn from the lessons of the past and did not understand the spirit of the time and still dominated by the mentality of the previous U.S. Administration "We ask: What was the occasion that prompted this U.S. official to talk about AMU and to attack Great Jamahiriyah?

Or is it a whim to attack it with or without reason?."

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Arab League's Klibi

LD1506181689 Tripoli JANA in English 1442 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Sayf [June] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has received Mr. Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League.

Present at this meeting was the representative of Great al-Jamahiriyahin sisterly Tunisia.

Sudan

Rebels Extend Cease-Fire to End of June

EA1506153989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The chairman and commander in chief SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army], Dr John Garang de Mabior, has extended the 45-day-long SPLA cease-fire for a further 2 weeks. According to the official SPLM/SPLA spokesman, the cease-fire will now expire 30 June 1989. The spokesman said that the cease-fire extension, the second to be declared by the movement since it came into force on 1 May 1989, comes within the context of the desire of the SPLA to enhance the peace process and assist the ongoing relief efforts.

Al-Husayn Urges Egypt To Return Numayri

PM1506091289 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 12 Jun 89 p 13

["Text" of statement by Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn]

[Text] We consider Ja'far Numayri a refugee in Egypt, and a refugee has absolutely no right to say or do anything political. Therefore his statement to AL-TADAMUN magazine is an act against Sudan, its revolution, and its political leadership.

Giving the political refugee Ja'far Muhammad Numayri the opportunity to make such statements reveals the delusion that Numayri could return to power. And whoever deludes himself about that must be entirely ignorant of conditions in Sudan and directly seeking to undermine Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

He added: I have no doubt at all that there are enemies of Egyptian-Sudanese relations, and they are the only people who would stand to benefit from such a situation. I would put a very large question mark over the possibility that such acts could evade Egyptian security. This matter suggests collusion, especially since interviews with Numayri have not be confined to AL-TADAMUN alone: The Qatari paper AL-RAYAH recently published a similar interview.

He went on: At the beginning of the uprising we asked the Egyptian authorities to extradite Numayri to Sudan so that he could be punished for his acts against the Sudanese people. But we overlooked this so as to preserve Sudanese-Egyptian relations.

Concluding his statement, he said: My question now is this: In whose interests is all this? What is required of Egypt, its leadership, and its people is either that Numayri be extradited to us or that he be removed from Egypt. The repetition of such acts will do nothing but harm to Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Charge

LD1506111989 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Kuwait, June 15, IRNA—Iran's Charge d'Affaires Javad Torkabadi met with Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Wednesday.

The two sides exchanged views on ways to expand mutual ties and the situation in the Persian Gulf.

The Kuwaiti minister expressed hopes that a new activity will soon start to promote bilateral ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Kuwait was among Iraq's main financial backers during its eight year old war against Iran which came to an end in August last year after Iran unconditionally accepted the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate end to the hostilities. Ever since, there are growing signs of improvement of ties between Iran and Arab states.

Majlis speaker and acting Armed Forces commander in chief of the Armed Forces said in an interview last week that Iran had recently received "positive signals" from Persian Gulf Arab states, excluding Saudi Arabia, for improvement of ties.

"There is no problem on our side... our goal is promotion of ties and peace coexistence (with Arab states)," Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in his first news conference after the departure of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeyni who passed away following a heart attack on June 3.

Saudi Arabia, however, broke diplomatic ties with Iran following its ruthless massacre of Muslim pilgrims, mostly Iranians, in Mecca in July 1987.

In the following years, Iran which usually sent 150,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, has sent none due to quota restrictions imposed by the Saudi officials. Tehran says either 150,000 pilgrims should go or none.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan on Domestic, Foreign Issues

PM2605110289 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24-30 May 89 pp 24-29

[Interview with Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and i...pector general, by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid; date, place not given]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH: A few weeks ago a Saudi national—the head of the Islamic Center in Belgium—was martyred. And before that other similar regrettable incidents involving Saudi nationals have occurred. Has any progress been made in identifying the guilty parties? And will the Kingdom take any measures against the Lebanese group which claimed responsibility for the killing and which is said to have links with certain Iranian elements?

Prince Sultan: As the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is anxious to achieve security and peace for its citizens on the Kingdom's territory, it is also anxious to ensure their safety in the friendly states, especially with regard to members of diplomatic missions and government representatives who, through their work at the Kingdom's embassies and diplomatic missions, provide a service to their homeland that is appreciated by Saudi citizens.

This is why numerous measures have been taken and, with cooperation from the sevices concerned in those states, they are capable of combating the evil criminal acts against our official missions abroad. But the disclosure of further details could have negative consequences on our efforts to trace the criminals and bring them to justice.

AL-MAJALLAH: Your coming visit to Britain is the focus of everyone's attention. May we know the objectives of the visit and the issues which you will discuss with the British?

Prince Sultan: The visit to Britain is among the regular visits exchanged between officials of the two friendly countries with a view to reviewing and following the cooperation program in the various fields. The issues to be discussed will be confined to the progress of the cooperation program in the military field.

AL-MAJALLAH: Some sources have said that you have played a role in developing relations between the PLO and the British Government, which have recently been characterized by direct meetings and positive statements. Will you raise the Palestinian issue during your visit to London, and if so, in what way?

Prince Sultan: Since its foundation by the late King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has consistently used its foreign relations and international friendships to serve the Palestinian cause and acquaint the major countries with the real tragedies to which the Palestinian people are exposed and the predicament that has caused them such serious suffering, resulting from the occupation of their territory and from the repression and deprivation imposed on them. The late King Faysal's role in backing the Palestinian cause is well known. The Palestinians also enjoyed the late King Khalid's full sympathy and support. The era of King Fahd—long may he live—has been characterized by active diplomatic moves at all levels to remind the international community, and first and foremost the friendly major countries, of their role in lifting the oppression inflicted on the Palestinian people and helping them to regain their

legitimate rights. Perhaps the aware Palestinian leadership has realized the importance of winning the support of Western opinion to its cause. This is why it has continued its struggle against the Zionist enemy in a entirely responsible and sensible manner so as to deny the Zionists any opportunity for a propaganda victory. Then came the courageous intifadah [uprising] of our Palestinian brothers in the occupied territories, crowning these efforts, exposing all the inhumane Israeli practices and Zionist crimes against the unarmed Palestinian people, and urging every conscientious person in the world to reconsider his position on what is happening in the Middle East. The Arabs have proved their suppport for a just peace based on the honorable, just legitimacy and principles stipulated by international charters and laws. They have also proved their willingness to fight and struggle heroically, even with stones, to recover their rights. Probably all these changes, in addition to growing mutual economic interests between Britain and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in particular and certain other Arab states states, have persuaded the British Government, which does not need to be briefed on the roots and the background of the problem, to take the positive steps and stances which you cited in your question.

This is why the Saudi role in mobilizing international support for the Palestinian cause cannot be ignored.

The exploitation of our friendships, links, and international influence in serving the Palestinian cause has been a fixed principle in Saudi foreign policy. That role has become more effective and fruitful during the era of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. This is shown by the practical changes on the political map of the Middle East. Although the program of my visit to Britain, as I said earlier, centers on military cooperation, as a Muslim, Arab, and Saudi, I will spare no effort to serve the Palestinian cause by every means available, because it is a mission and a trust which we inherited from 'Abd-al-'Aziz—may God have mercy upon him—whose correspondence with the world leaders of his era, including U.S. President Roosevelt, bears witness to his interest in the the international dimension of the problem and his eagerness to remind the major countries' leaders of their responsibilities for bringing justice to Palestinian territory.

But we must also not forget the major role which the recent courageous PLO initiatives have played in breaking the deadlock in its contacts with major countries such as the United States, Britain, and recently France.

AL-MAJALLAH: There are signs of the U.S. Government's interest in the Kingdom's defense requirements. This is confirmed by the message which President Bush sent to Congress, in which he clearly expressed his support for any Saudi request for U.S. weapons. Have any Saudi requests for arms been submitted in principle or officially to the U.S. Government?

Prince Sultan: As long as the United States remains one of the leading countries in the manufacture of effective weapons, and as long as the custodian of the two holy mosques continues to try to secure the best and most advanced weapon system for our Armed Forces to enable them to perform their sacred mission in defending the sanctity of Islam efficiently and competently, it is natural for the Kingdom to seek to purchase superior types of U.S. weapons. And we have indeed submitted requests to the U.S. Government.

AL-MAJALLAH: Do you believe that U.S. Congress has learned from its recent lesson, when you decided to turn to the British market?

Prince Sultan: I would like to say that someone has learned a lesson. This is not our preferred method in dealing with friends. But what is certain is that what happened did not please U.S. industrialists and economists. As for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, world arms markets are open to it. In any case, our relations with the United States remain relations of special friendship. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a force for stability and its policy is always based on the firm foundations of wisdom, vision, and prudence in a very important region. And these foundations are important to a superpower such as the United States.

AL-MAJALLAH: Do you believe that some senators could change their position after your decision to to turn to the British and other markets that appreciate the Kingdom's policies and support its legitimate right to self-defense?

Prince Sultan: I hope so, because the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is serious about securing what it sees as essential for the defense of its security and the safety of its territory.

AL-MAJALLAH: If, for the sake of argument, we assume that the Kingdom has approved a plan to purchase [weapons] from the United States, would you agree to engage in battle with the sectors in Congress hostile to the Kingdom?

Prince Sultan: We would certainly spare no efforts in explaining our viewpoint to our friends in the United States, whether in the administration or in Congress. We would explain the common interests linking our two countries, which would help ensure that our requests for defense equipment are met.

As for our stances on regional and international issues, they are known to political circles in Washington. They are always based on truth, logic, and justice. They rule out emotional and uncontrolled responses.

AL-MAJALLAH: The Kingdom has peacefully overcome the predicament of the war between its two neighbors, Iraq and Iran. Some believe that the weaponry which the Kingdom bought in the late seventies and its

acquisition of AWACS [Airborne Warning and Control Systems] and other armaments during the war years was the real reason why the war did not spread to the Saudi area and indeed for the achievement of a defense parity for the Gulf region as whole. Now that the war is over, could Your Highness kindly assess the deterrent military role which the Saudi forces played during the war?

Prince Sultan: First of all, we thank God for the establishment of security and the gift of Islam and peace which we are experiencing in the Kingdom despite the conflicts and sedition in the region. Thanks for that goes to God, first, and then to the balanced policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which rejects entanglements and falling into marginal conflicts. But that desire to live in peace may clash with others' ambitions and desires to divert us from that clear line. Military superiority can tempt people to embark on an adventure. This is why a balance of power in any region of the world has a positive effect with regard to achieving peace and eliminating scope for adventurers. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is eager to build modern armed forces that are, with God's might, effective and capable of defending its territorial integrity, airspace, and waters, and of making any attempted attacks on it costly to the aggressors in both material and human terms. But that alone cannot constitute a deterrent force. This is why I attribute our escape from the calamities of that conflict to Almighty God's kindness to our country, which embraces the Muslims' qiblah and the tomb of his kind prophet—peace be upon him—and to the wisdom, judiciousness, and prudence of the custodian of the two holy mosques, who was able to govern during that worrying stage in the region's history steadfastly, confidently, and farsightedly until those crises had passed. And, praise God, our country still enjoys peace and stability.

AL-MAJALLAH: With the resumption of warlike statements, do you believe that the war could break out again?

Prince Sultan: The 9 years of war have proved that a military settlement is remote and perhaps impossible to achieve. And I have no doubt that the suffering, deprivation, hardship, and great human losses inflicted on the two people can persuade them to abandon thoughts of war and to start rebuilding the two countries instead. I believe that the 9-years of war, with their bitterness and pain, can persuade the two parties to limit themselves to the previous episodes of military conflict and to resolve disputes peacefully, especially as the points of agreement between the two neighboring Muslim peoples outweigh the points of disagreement that have ravaged that peaceful region.

AL-MAJALLAH: There were said to have been attempts to clear the atmosphere between Riyadh and Tehran before the recent changes in in Iran. Have matters changed as a result of that? And what are the chances of a resumption of relations between the two countries?

Prince Sultan: The Kingdom's position on that issue is clear. As the custodian of the two holy mosques has announced on several occasions, the Kingdom harbors all feelings of love and friendship toward its Muslim neighbor, fraternal Iran. It wants their relations to be characterized by love and brotherhood based on mutual respect, good-neighborliness, and noninterference in the affairs of others. The changes that have occurred in Iran are an internal affair that concerns Iran alone. All that concerns us is that the leadership accepted by the Iranian people be willing to resume relations in a positive, brotherly spirit reflecting the depth of the strong relations that bind the fraternal, Muslim Iranian people and their Muslim brothers in the Arab world, irrespective of aggressive attitudes and behavior toward the Kingdom, its people, and leadership—the behavior that led to the severing of relations. The Kingdom opens its arms to the peace calls in order to mend the rift and overcome differences among the peoples of the Islamic world, especially with the fraternal Iranian people to whom we are linked by a centuries-old history of harmony, friendship, and mutual respect.

AL-MAJALLAH: Has military cooperation with China ended with the East Wind [rih al-sharq] missiles?

Prince Sultan: The Kingdom recently opened a trade office in China and trade was expanded last year. As for military cooperation, there has been nothing new since the East Wind missiles. That means not that it has ended but, rather, that our requirements for Chinese exports at this stage ended with those missiles. But there is nothing to prevent the resumption of cooperation if both sides believe that the time is right.

AL-MAJALLAH: The Kingdom was the first the state in the world to recognize the mujahidin government in Afghanistan, and some considered the recognition premature, especially as the military question has still not been settled. What is Your Highness's opinion?

Prince Sultan: The Kingdom's decision is based on the fact that the interim Afghan Government is the legitimate representative approved by the various groups within the Afghan Islamic resistance through the Afghan shura [council]. And it represent the united Afghan resistance factions which struggled to eject the invading Soviet forces from Afghanistan in a most brilliant and modern form of Islamic jihad. Our recognition of it was not the result of a particular military situation. It was based on a belief in its legitimacy and ability to represent the Afghan people during the next stage of the jihad in order to rebuild the Islamic state in that precious part of our greater Islamic homeland.

AL-MAJALLAH: Let us return to the internal issues. Military tension has eased in the region as a whole. Does this mean a postponement of the military conscription plan proposed in the past?

Prince Sultan: The call for military conscription in the past was not made because of tension in the region. It was made because of the multifaceted aspects of the Armed Forces' development plan and its need for hundreds of specialists at a time when the various work opportunities attracted qualified young men. So there were thoughts of committing young men to work for a period of time in the Armed Forces to enable the Armed Forces to implement their ambitious plans. But the situation has changed and the Armed Forces colleges, institutes, and schools now receive applications from more people than they need or can accommodate. So the there is no longer a need for military conscription, in view of the voluntary service joined by thousands of young men in the various branches of the Armed Forces.

AL-MAJALLAH: You made it a condition that your foreign military purchases be linked to investments in industrial technology in the country. What stage has the program reached under the plan drawn up for it?

Prince Sultan: The economic balance program you mentioned has actually started to bear fruit even better than originally planned. And several companies have been set up combining Saudi and foreign capital. They introduce advanced technologies to the new Saudi military expertise under supervision from major specialized international companies. They enable the Kingdom to meet its its requirements for technologically advanced products from the homeland's territory. We are so pleased with this kind of cooperation that we intend to apply it to all our future projects and also to our programs already under way.

Summit Clash With Syria Over Lebanon Examined

JN1006122289 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Jun 89 p 3

[Article by Dr Muhsin Khalil: "The Casablanca Summit: Hafiz al-Asad and the Lebanese Quagmire"]

[Text] The efforts to achieve Iraqi-Syrian reconciliation at the Casablanca summit conference collided with a solid wall of Iraqi rejection from the very first moment. They were not given the slightest hope for success, either inside or outside the conference.

The Iraqi rejection of any reconciliation with Hafiz al-Asad's regime was based on a realistic, principled, and ethical understanding of political reconciliation and a long record of dealings with that regime stretching back 20 years.

Most Arab leaders were not fully informed of the relations between Iraq and Hafiz al-Asad's regime, and some of them did not have a sufficient motive to follow these relations and understand their minute details and developments. Therefore, they lacked the means to understand precisely Iraq's rejection of the recent efforts for reconciliation with Damascus. They were, to a certain extent, excused for maintaining such an attitude.

But the frank exposure that took place at the conference between leader President Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad removed much of the ambiguity, confusion, and ignorance over the factors governing Iraqi-Syrian relations. It placed before the Arab leaders a direct, clear and frank discussion in the presence of Hafiz al-Asad, giving him a full opportunity to explain his policies and deviations.

We presume—and our assumption is 100 percent correct because it is backed by much of the evidence that appeared on the sidelines of the conference and has become common knowledge—that the direct and frank exposure that leader Saddam Husayn presented to the conference, and which was supported by documents and valid arguments, acquainted the Arab leaders with the true extent of the procrastination, fabrication, and forgery that Hafiz al-Asad has used to justify his actions and policies in Lebanon. It also revealed the cards that Al-Asad shuffles deliberately to obliterate the dividing line between the principled and deviant stands he adopted in the Lebanese, Palestinian, and Arab arenas.

This exposure helped the conference pass its well known resolution on Lebanon, which formed the higher tripartite committee on Lebanon with broad, full powers to solve the Lebanese question within 6 months. If this committee fails to reach a solution, the conference will reconvene and there will be another discussion on the matter.

When the Lebanese question was raised in the closed meetings of the summit, Hafiz al-Asad had no more cards to wave in the face of the Arab leaders to make them accept his criminal role in Lebanon other than his military presence. And the other cards that he had waved a few months before the summit or during the preparatory meetings of the Arab foreign ministers—such as the bargain over Egypt's return to the Arab League, exerting pressure on the PLO, supporting Iraq and expressing solidarity with it in the peace talks, and Iran's implementation of Resolution No 598—were completely burned.

For all this, when Hafiz al-Asad came to the conference he found that his calculations were wrong, that his hopes of making the summit conference give his regime a clear regional weight were impossible, and the cards he held tightly fell out of his hands, particularly the Palestinian decisionmaking card. He lost control of Palestinian decisionmaking and failed to turn the dissidents into an alternative to the PLO. He also lost the card of the Iranian threat and his capability to curb it and prevent it from expanding to the Arabian Gulf states after Iraq's victory and the defeat of his allies in Tehran.

The only card left in Al-Asad's hand was the Lebanese card. And this was his last chance to bargain. He thought that he could persuade the Arab leaders to support his policies in Lebanon. Thus he relinquished the other issues in which he could have played the role of troublemaker to confine his abilities and potentials to gain the support of the conference for his position on the Lebanese issue.

In the first closed session, he spoke for 3 hours. In his speech, there was a great deal of swerving and irrelevant talk. He then discussed strictly personal issues that surprised the conferees. It was obvious that Hafiz al-Asad was driven to this digression by two causes: First, he wanted to waste much of the session's time—a tactic whereby he thought he would leave the Arab leaders only a little time, forcing them to hurry in adopting a conciliatory resolution to render the summit a success. Second, he was mirroring the psychological crisis inside himself.

What one of the Arab diplomats, who is known for his long friendship with the Syrian regime, said in the wake of the closed session on Thursday shed light on the confused behavior of Hafiz al-Asad inside the conference. This diplomat said: "Hafiz al-Asad is greatly frustrated, and his strong desire is to compensate for the feeling of inferiority he experiences every time he meets Saddam Husayn." This diplomat added: "I believe this is a normal thing because Saddam Husayn is a fighter and commander who is interested in deeds and practical results and who has triumphed in a tough war. Meanwhile, Hafiz al-Asad is still seeking strategic parity."

Hafiz al-Asad was faced with a frank, bold, and balanced position for the first time. This position dotted the i's and crossed the t's for him and called his deviant and vicious actions and policies by their real names without the flattery or indulgence to which he was used, but also without insults or a desire for revenge. That was leader Saddam Husayn's position during the conference.

In his frankness, the leader proceed neither from the background of Hafiz al-Asad's treachery nor from the bitterness caused by his alliance with Iran in striking Baghdad with missiles; the leader proceeded from his pan-Arab principles and his desire to see the Arab nation recover from the wounds inflicted by that stray, deviant handful of people.

Frankness was the leader's alternative to the attempts to mediate between him and Hafiz al-Asad. When he rejected reconciliation with its well known formality, he sought a reform of Hafiz al-Asad's deviant actions and policies. Once this reform takes place, the door will be open to a reconciliation that deals with the causes of estrangement and rectifies the deviant stand, not a reconciliation of appeasement.

For the logic of objective confrontation to prevail away from emotional oneupmanship and showy speeches, leader Saddam Husayn briefed the conferees on the Iraqi view of Hafiz al-Asad's policies and indicated the areas of error, deviation, and aggression in them, supporting all this with facts and figures so that the Iraqi position would not be misinterpreted as a personal one.

Some of what President Saddam Husaun said before the conference, addressing Hafiz al-Asad, can be summed as follows:

—You claimed that you entered Lebanon upon an Arab League decision. As a matter of fact, you did so before the Arab League made a decision in this regard. Even if we disregard this, the Arab forces that entered Lebanon on the Arab League's decision withdrew from it in 1979 while you, up to the present moment, continue to refuse to withdraw your forces.
—You claimed that you entered upon the request of the legitimate government. However, when this government asked you to withdraw your forces in 1982, you refused.
—You claimed that you entered Lebanon to end fratricide, but the scope of killing has increased and become a daily horror.
—You claimed that you entered to protect the legitimate institutions, but you have destroyed them all.
—You claimed that you entered to protect the Muslims, but the Muslims have suffered unprecedented death and destruction at your hands.
—You claimed that you entered to protect Lebanon from Israel, but your forces did not fire a single bullet when Israel occupied Lebanon twice.
—You claimed that you entered Lebanon to prevent Israel from reaching Damascus from Lebanese territory, but you forgot that the Israeli Army has been occupying the Golan Heights for 20 years, is on the threshold of Damascus, and you are not making a single move.

Following this exposure and an account of Hafiz al-Asad's actions and claims, the leader concluded his remarks by addressing the follwing to Hafiz al-Asad: You should now depart from the land of the Arabs. Renounce this policy. Escape from this stinking quagmire, in which you have turned your army in Lebanon into hashish traffickers. Armies are not built in this way. Get out of Lebanon and let the Lebanese solve their own problems. You must get out of Lebanon.

The Arab leaders listened with great interest to the information and analyses given by President leader Saddam Husayn on Hafiz al-Asad's policy in Lebanon and its danger to Lebanon's unity and Arabism and to the Arab nation's security. They also listened to Hafiz al-Asad's weak and misleading logic. Hafiz al-Asad sometimes appeared to imagine that he could convince the Arab leaders of his exposed allegations.

In fact, most Arab leaders reject Hafiz al-Asad's trusteeship over the Lebanese issue as well as the presence of his forces in Lebanon. They also believe that there will be a chance for a solution only if the foreign forces, including the Syrian forces, withdraw and all militias are removed from Beirut. However, due to some Arab leaders' understanding of the Lebanese problem, there were justifications for refraining from including these convictions in the final statement and from declaring them frankly at the conference.

The common denominator of these justifications is that they give Hafiz al-Asad a last chance to reconsider his positions and withdraw from Lebanon to save face, if he still has any. The Arabs have decided that Hafiz al-Asad should leave Lebanon, and he will certainly leave it. The conference gave Hafiz al-Asad a last chance to work out a way to withdraw from Lebanon without an uproar and without the appearance of being forced to leave.

Will Hafiz al-Asad respond to the Casablanca summit decision and withdraw from Lebanon? Will he learn the Lebanese lesson and also draw a lesson from the conference's resolution, which was moderate and quiet and which saved him from condemnation?

A foreign minister of an African Arab state said that the Casablanca summit resolution on the Lebanese problem "had to be as it is, because the Syrian president needs a victory, and the summit resolution satisfies this need."

According to this foreign minister's statement, Hafiz al-Asad will consider the Casablanca summit resolution a victory for him and it will constitute a psychological vehicle that will encourage him to withdraw from Lebanon without a sense of failure.

It is all right if this statement is true, because the Arabs do not want to take revenge against Hafiz al-Asad. They only want to save Lebanon and its unity and put an end to the tragedy of the Lebanese people and the dangers threatening the Arabs resulting from the continuation of the abnormal situation there.

Therefore, it is all right for Hafiz al-Asad to consider the resolution from this point of view, and it is all right for him to claim in his mass media that the resolution came to stress "the credibility of Syria's policy toward the Lebanese crisis" and that "it is an expression of the failure of the Arabization and internationalization of the Lebanese crisis."

All this is well and good if President al-Asad has learned the Lebanese lesson and understood the signal sent by the Casablanca summit resolution and the Arab leaders.

On the ground, though, he does not have that much room for continued maneuvers and tactics. He must undertake a review of his Lebanon policies and start preparing to withdraw his troops from the country to give a chance for the summit's tripartite committee to try and find a solution in accordance with the Casablanca summit.

New facts have come to light in the Lebanese arena that indicate that Syrian monopoly and custodianship over Lebanon is now finished and that the Lebanese and other Arabs will beleaguer the Syrian presence there until the Syrians withdraw with their tails between their legs.

It is worth listing a number of facts that President al-Asad must have been made to understand during the summit:

—None of the Arab leaders subscribes to his continued deployment in Lebanon.

—While the Casablanca summit failed to mention the Syrian occupation by name, for all intents and purposes, the Lebanese file has now been transferred from Syrian to Arab custodianship.

—The conference went out of its way not to refer to the Syrian occupation in order to provide a cover for its withdrawal from Lebanon.

—The Lebanese have come to realize that resuscitating their pan-Arab allegiance and affiliation is the only alternative to the daily killings and that a prerequisite for this revival is the departure of the Syrian forces.

—Lebanese across the political spectrum now regard the Syrian presense in Lebanon as an indicted occupation. It is the first time since the Syrians entered Lebanon in 1976 that the indictment has been vociferously made. More and more Lebanese are now calling for the Syrian pullout.

There is nothing to indicate that Hafiz al-Asad will manage to hold out against calls for withdrawal. Sources knowledgeable about Lebanon point out that the Syrian presence in Lebanon is doomed and say that the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon is now only a matter of time. They advance the following arguments to support this line of thought:

1. To the great surprise of Damascus and its allies, forces loyal to Michel 'Awn acquitted themselves admirably against the Syrian intensive shelling.

2. Equally surprising was the counter-shelling carried out by the 'Awn forces which inflicted heavy losses on the Syrian military and allied forces—something the Syrians have not previously experienced.

3. Syrian top brass optimism concerning the possiblity of trouncing the 'Awn forces on the battlefield has proved unfounded.

4. The Michel 'Awn forces have not as yet fielded all their firepower. (points 1-4 from AL-TAQRIR publication, Issue No 8, 1989)

5. Having learned of the implication of top echelons of the Syrian military in graft and drug trafficking, the Syrian soldier has decided he is not fighting for a worthy cause in Lebanon. The morale and combat readiness of the Syrian soldiers are now at an all-time low. Should any fresh confrontations erupt, the Syrian soldier will not find one reason why he should make sacrifices.

Apparently these are the reasons Hafiz al-Asad has thus far refrained from getting involved in direct military action against Michel 'Awn's forces and has limited himself to rocket and artillery shelling.

What has remained to Hafiz al-Asad to continue his presence in Lebanon is the Iranian option, which he might use in confrontation with the Lebanese Army. However, this option is not guaranteed and it would have serious consequences for him.

The Iranian option is represented by Velayati's offer during his visit to Damascus a few weeks before the Casablanca summit. The objective of this offer was to liquidate General 'Awn before the summit to strengthen Al-Asad's position at the summit. Velayati's offer stipulated Iran's readiness "to dispatch military forces and equipment and to finance the Syrian military expenditures in Lebanon if Syria agrees to carry out a comprehensive penetration of East Beirut with the objective of deciding the situation and toppling the military government." (AL-TAQRIR publication)

Hafiz al-Asad partially rejected this offer and agreed to the despatch of a few thousand Iranian Guards and some forms of military support for his presence in Lebanon. This rejection is governed by the facts of the Lebanese arena and by the Arab and international situations. On the Lebanese level, the arrival of Iranians in large numbers will lead to expanding the circle of Lebanese support for the military government and the Lebanese Army and to bolstering their efficiency to achieve the objective of liberation and the evacuation of foreign forces. This could mean Hafiz al-Asad's loss of the most important pillars of his presence in Lebanon—namely, the current state of fragmentation due to the absence of a common cause among the Lebanese.

On the Arab level, the arrival of the Iranians could undermine the movement of some regimes that still support the Syrian position and that show concern not to condemn it directly. This actually took place during one of the sessions of the Casablanca summit, when one of Hafiz al-Asad's allies who is close to him opposed the Iranian presence in Lebanon and called for the expulsion of the Persian flags, which threaten to turn Lebanon into another "Israel."

In conclusion, Hafiz al-Asad's options in Lebanon have become very limited. To be more accurate, his only choice now is to abide by the Casablanca summit resolution and to withdraw from Lebanon under its cover. Without this, he will find himself defeated and compelled to withdraw from Lebanon sooner or later, because he has been defeated from inside long ago and defeated in his deviant policies and treasonous actions before our struggler people in Syria and before the entire the Arab nation.

Raid on 'Terrorist' Targets Near Tyre Reported
TA1606040989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Air Force planes attacked a terrorist base south of Tyre this morning. All our aircraft returned safely home. The targets were destroyed. The base that was attacked, located on the outskirts of the al-Rashidiyah refugee camp, served as the launching site for terrorists to carry out attacks against Israel and the security zone.

Ben-Aharon 'Not Afraid' of Self-Determination
TA1606091789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Jun 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, said yesterday that he "is not afraid of the term 'self-determination' for the Palestinians," and that the government's peace initiative can provide them with "9 out of 10 parts" of self-determination.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST, Ben-Aharon also indicated future flexibility on the issue of the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the proposed elections in the territories. "The matter of East Jerusalem is insignificant, a solution can be found," Ben-Aharon said, adding that "after all, this issue is subject to different views here as well."

At the same time, Ben-Aharon said that Israel would under no circumstances allow outsiders to participate in the elections. "This is a red line," he said.

"The label 'self-determination' is semantic," Ben-Aharon said. "I can also say that I would give the Palestinians self-determination. If our scenario materializes, we can give them a great deal to satisfy their political aspirations—and this is a kind of euphemism for self-determination.

"If you say that there are 10 components of self-determination, the Palestinians can achieve 9 of them. An anthem and a flag will not be given to them by any Israeli Government. But I am not afraid of the term 'self-dermination.'

"We are giving them a golden opportunity. If they don't seize it, they will remain in their traditional corner with the rejectionists."

Ironically, the head of the [U.S.] State Department's policy and planning staff, Dennis Ross, explained yesterday in a Worldnet TV satellite interview why the U.S. shies away from the term 'self-determination.' [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon also said that Prime Minister Shamir, Defence Minister Rabin and the Coordinator in the Territories, Shmu'el Goren, would now engage in the "next stage," which is to meet Palestinians "to see if there is a readiness, even if it is conditional, to accept the principle of elections."

Ben-Aharon said that there was no point in identifying Shamir's Palestinian interlocutors in advance. By not identifying them, they would be able to come and speak freely, "for what it's worth, and I am not fooling myself," he added.

Israel will accept Palestinian interlocutors who identify with the PLO or who wish to demand a Palestinian state as the permanent solution, Ben-Aharon said.

"The elections are aimed at solving a problem between Israel and the inhabitants here, we are not demanding that they swear on the Koran in a mosque that they do not support the PLO. This is not realistic.

"But we say 'you are going to negotiate on an interim solution and a permanent solution as a representative of the inhabitants here. If you get input from Islamabad or Tunis—it's your bloody problem.' If they say 'we are the PLO, we love the PLO, then we will make a note of it, that's all.

"They can demand a Palestinian state, but we will tell them that is a demand to be raised when the talks on the final settlement take place. We will promise that negotiations on the permanent solution will indeed take place, because that's part of our plan.

"But if they say, 'we have nothing to talk about, because the Palestinian state headed by Yasir 'Arafat represents us,' then we will tell them that they have locked the door to progress."

Ross, when speaking of the "gradual evolution" in the U.S.-PLO dialogue, said that "moving forward requires that the PLO recognizes that there is a practical process that is possible here and that they themselves need to be able to identify with it." Ben-Aharon, on the other hand, said that the dialogue was "a grave mistake that will cost us and the U.S. dearly. They equated the intifadah [uprising] with the PLO, and decided that they can no longer afford to ignore the PLO. But the PLO can only lead to destruction."

Ben-Aharon denied that the U.S. was "mediating" between Israel and the PLO, saying "if they come and say, for example, that there can't be elections without East Jerusalem, and this is a direct consequence of their talks in Tunis—would you call this mediation? I wouldn't call this mediation."

He said that Israel is "under no illusions" about American intentions. "They will try to hitch on to our plan and try to deviate from the original blueprint. But we won't allow it."

The plan, he admitted, was "a minefield," because of the danger that there will be "an erosion of the American position."

"But if you want movement, you have to take risks," Ben-Aharon said. "It depends on us and on our ability to stick to our original plan."

'Consternation' Over Remarks

TA1606092489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jun 89 pp 1, 18

[Report from Washington by Wolf Blitzer and from Jerusalem by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] U.S. officials yesterday said they were "surprised and intrigued" by this week's statement by Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director-general of the Prime Minsiter's office, that he was "not afraid of Palestinian self-determination." [passage omitted]

In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry sources expressed amazement and consternation at Ben-Aharon's statement, saying that the issue of Palestinian self-determination is the current focal point of the U.S.-PLO dialogue in Tunis, and that Israeli diplomats in Washington have been quietly urging the administration not to give in to PLO demands that the U.S. express public support for self-determination.

The officials expressed concern that Ben-Aharon's statement could be used by the administration to justify its recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Initiative Termed Camp David in 'New Packaging'

TA1506172789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the State of Israel has no choice but to wipe out the Arab violence, and it is determined to do so. The prime minister revealed that he is at present busy with this issue to which he attaches a particular importance. He made these remarks in a meeting with Likud Central Committee members from Herut-Betar agricultural farms, who came to his office.

Mr Shamir stressed that his peace initiative contains no concessions entailing any particular dangers. He added that although the Camp David accords also contained risks, we can see today that they constitute our political iron bridge, to which the United States is also a party. The initiative, he said, is in fact Camp David in a new packaging.

Shamir on Violence: Patience 'Not Unlimited'

TA1606044489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says the Israeli Government's peace initiative is getting increasing support from around the world, but he warned again that steps forward are not possible as long as the violence continues. The prime minister spoke last night to the Board of Governors of Bar-Ilan University.

[Begin Shamir recording] None of this will come to fruition in conditions of violence, terror, and rioting. Those who believe that they will achieve their objectives by violence are totally mistaken. Israel doesn't bend under the pressure of violence, and our patience is not unlimited. [end recording]

Sharon Terms Peace Initiative 'Dangerous Mistake'

TA1606073989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon has told reporters in London the Israeli Government's peace initiative is a mistake. Sharon, who was in the British capital to address the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce, called for major amendments to the peace initiative, as we hear in this report from Jerry Lewis:

[Begin recording] [Lewis] Mr Sharon, who is in London for a private visit, launched a strong attack on his own party's position concerning the peace initiative, as proposed by Mr Shamir. He said he considered it a dangerous mistake, and he questioned the procedures Likud was following to approve it at their party's Central Committee meeting at the beginning of next month.

Israel's trade minister outlined three amendments he intends to incorporate in the plan: Firstly, Israel should insist on a restoration of law and order prior to the commencement of any peace process; secondly, a clear statement concerning the status of Jerusalem that on no account was its future negotiable; and finally, spelling out that no vote should be given in the proposed election to the Arab residents of East Jerusalem, as he feared doing so would give legitimacy to what he termed leaders of terrorism and violence, most of whom he said lived in East Jerusalem. He is optimistic Likud Party members will approve his three amendments.

[Sharon] For me it's very hard to assume that the Likud representatives in the convention will not approve, or not vote for, this paragraph about security and bringing an end to terror and assassination or murder of Israeli soldiers or civilians. It's very hard to imagine.

[Lewis] As for resignation threats made either by Mr Shamir or on his behalf if the plan was not accepted by the Likud Central Committee, Mr Sharon said it was absurd for an Israeli premier to resign over issues designed to strengthen the state. He added at no time

had he personally heard Mr Shamir offer to resign. He thought people around the premier were spreading rumors because they feared for their own future. He, Mr Sharon, also rules out any possibility of his own resignation should his ideas not gain the party's approval. But he was also quick to point out that should Mr Shamir go, the party had the machinery ready to elect a new leader, and he was available. He emphasized his amendments were not linked to the battle for succession. He said he was deeply worried about the future of Israel and it was this fact which brought him to try to convince and warn of the danger of Mr Shamir's plan as it is. [end recording]

New Moves Against Uprising Require New Laws
TA1506182289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Finance Minister Shim'on Peres met for more than 1 hour today to discuss the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] request for 420 million shekels to cover its ongoing costs of dealing with the intifadah [uprising]. The chief of staff and the head of the IDF's Planning Branch also took part in the talks. No decisions were reached today about the request for an additional budget, nor was there any indication of when a final decision will be taken.

After their meeting, both Rabin and Peres told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that the issue has far-reaching implications, whatever final decision will be taken:

[Rabin] If there will be no coverage by an additional budget for the expenditure of the IDF in dealing with the uprising, it will be taken from orders to the industry, purchasing, training, etcetera.

[Ben-'Ami] There is a lot of heat coming from politicians about a new policy about to be launched in the territories to deal with the uprising, with the intifadah. When, in fact, are we likely to see new moves?

[Rabin] Permissions to the IDF have not changed, they are as they were before: To reduce the violence till the achievement of tranquility, to maintain the effective functioning of the Civil Administration and the lawful government. The limitation today is mainly by the laws. Without changing the laws, it will be very difficult to cope more effectively.

Commentary on Palestinian Self-Determination
TA1506142889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jun 89 p 9

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Who Deserves Self-Determination?"]

[Text] It is very likely that Yitzhaq Shamir would have found himself in one of his most difficult hours had Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, uttered the words "self-determination" last week.

Yasir 'Arafat paid hard currency, namely the recognition of Israel's right to exist, to buy a dialogue with Pelletreau. There is solid evidence that in return for a U.S. recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the PLO would give the residents of the territories a green light to put Shamir's election plan to the test.

Shamir has already threatened that Israel will call an immediate halt to the "process" if the elected Palestinian representatives demand a Palestinian state.

Apparently Shamir clearly understands just how close the United States is to recognizing the Palestinian right to self-determination, and just how short the distance is between self-determination and a Palestinian state.

Otherwise, it is difficult to comprehend how his threat can be compatible with his declaration that the Palestinians—just like Israel—will be able to voice any proposals they may desire during the negotiations on the permanent arrangements.

One must bear in mind that the government decision, also known as the "Shamir initiative," stipulates that the representatives chosen in the elections in the territories will also represent their people during the discussions on the permanent agreement. Therefore, it is inconceivable that the voters would not be allowed to know the candidates' views regarding the final accords.

This is the time to remind ourselves how Shamir and his buddies once shrugged off the claim, voiced by supporters of the international conference, that Israel would always have the right to desert the "process" if it would find itself facing unreasonable demands.

Even less than a year ago, only a few members of the political circles in Jerusalem, and perhaps only 'Ezer Weizman, believed that the United States would commence an overt dialogue with the PLO which would actually serve to mediate between Yitzhaq Shamir and Yasir 'Arafat. It is now utterly clear that the United States accepts the fact that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told several congressmen, whom he recently met on Capitol Hill, that Secretary of State Baker is convinced "that nothing will move without the PLO."

The recognition of the political rights of the Palestinian people is prominent among the four principles repeatedly portrayed by the Bush administration as the key to its Middle East policy. President Bush has already said that the occupation must be stopped. The principle of territories for peace is included even in the letter of support signed by the 94 senators. If Israel has to vacate the territories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Jordan has no desire to reclaim these territories or their populace. Jordan regards the PLO as the authorized body responsible for their future.

If the Palestinians deserve political rights, then the United States, without publicly saying so, recognizes their de f .to right to negotiate with Israel through their designated representative. The Palestinians will negotiate the implementation of their political rights in the territories Israel will vacate when a peace agreement is signed.

How far is it from the scenario above to recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination?

Not only the United States, but also the pragmatic, post-Camp David Israeli right, is hard pressed for a viable explanation to their opposition to the Palestinians' right to self-determination. It is no coincidence that recently Likud spokesmen have begun speaking in terms of opposition to "a second Palestinian State."

Therefore, it is implied, they do not question the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state. This right, however, should be realized in the Kingdom of Jordan, where the greatest concentration of Palestinians live, and Palestinians form the clear majority of the population. But since King Husayn still retains firm control of Jordan, and Israel's most important friends are also Husayn's friends, the problem lands back on our side of the river. It was Menahem Begin who signed the clause mentioning the Palestinians' legitimate rights. Furthermore, he even acknowledged that these rights extend also to the people residing outside the greater boundaries of Zion. Otherwise, he would not have agreed to take "acceptable" Palestinians from outside the territories in the negotiations for a permanent solution.

As a jurist, Begin must have known precisely why he so judiciously avoided using the term "Palestinian nation" in Hebrew. In December 1960 Israel joined the many other nations that supported UN Resolution 1514 against colonialism. That resolution stipulated that all people have the right to self-determination. Who would have thought that 7 years later Israel would conquer an area on which 1.5 million members of another people reside; and that 22 years later it would employ colonialist methods against people who are fighting for their right to self-determination? Thirteen years prior to that resolution, the Jews' demand for self-determination—or, as it was phrased in the Balfour Declaration, "a national home"—was based on the desire, recognized as legitimate, for a political framework that would manifest the ethnic, cultural, historic, linguistic, religious, and other differences unique to the Jewish people. The Camp David accords legally nullify Begin's successors' sociological contention that the Palestinians are not a unique ethnic, cultural, linguistic, or religious entity that would qualify them as "a nation." Consequently, they are not eligible for self-determination.

Unlike the Israeli leadership, the Palestinian leadership has recently evinced a realistic approach to the political limitations it is facing. As a result, its chances of realizing the goal—evidently still only a temporary goal—it has set for itself are far better. The PLO maintains—and more and more countries of the world are becoming receptive to the argument—that no nation or foreign government has the right to determine how the Palestinian people realize their right to self-determination. They suggest that after the United States forces Israel to recognize this right, political negotiations will be held on the manifestations of that right, and on the borders inside which it will be realized. In a plebiscite, the residents of the Province of Quebec, for instance, decided that they will manifest this right by being an inseparable part of Canada. The Belgians are inclined toward a binational state, while the members of the EEC forgo such tokens of sovereign rule as passports and customs duties of their own volition. The world has seen the horrendous results of the humiliating arrangements forced on Germany after World War I. If the Israeli leaders climb down out of their tree—probably not without U.S. assistance—and actually ask the Palestinians what they want, they may learn that they prefer a confederation with Jordan, possibly also with Israel, and—who knows—perhaps they will decide that they can benefit most from an autonomy. If they become greedy and insist on a state, complete with missiles, a party advocating transfer, and pens to lock up the settlers in Nabulus—then, to quote Shamir, we can always "halt the process." But the recognition of people's right to self-determination cannot be halted.

Commentary Sees Country Politically Isolated

TA1506160289 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jun 89 p A 15

[Commentary by Shmu'el Segev: "A Hot Summer"]

[Text] The visit here by Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali, the talks Yasir 'Arafat held with President Mubarak in Cairo 2 days ago, and the Egyptian foreign minister's trip to West Europe prove that the Arab countries will no longer allow Israel to renege on its proposal of elections.

Israel had enjoyed a grace period from the time the initiative was made public on 14 May while engaging in a propaganda drive. The trips by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to Europe have, to a large extent, improved Israel's image in the world, and pushed the Arab countries to a defensive position. Since the Casablanca summit, however, Egypt and the PLO have been on a counteroffensive, and have returned the ball of the Israeli initiative to Shamir's court in Jerusalem. It is now clear that the Arab countries will not allow Israel to withdraw from the initiative. Facing the joint U.S.-European-Arab front, Israel is once again in political isolation. It has to make its positions clear on whether it is genuinely interested in promoting peace in our region. Diplomatic sources make clear that the United States, Britain, France, and Spain have convinced Egypt, and through it the PLO, that the idea of elections in the territories is the only feasible one to implement the Palestinian political rights.

Hence, Israel's publishing of the initiative on 14 May gave it more maneuvering room, while the Casablanca summit, and the political developments since, have returned the initiative to Egypt's hands. Contrary to the impression Israel has been trying to create, the Arab world is certain today that the PLO has not rejected the Israeli plan, while it is waiting for the clarifications demanded by the United States, Britain, Spain, France, and Egypt. As a result, the level of coordination between Egypt and the PLO has substantially increased. So, hours after Ghali returned from Jerusalem and reported to Mubarak on his talks here, he met with 'Arafat in Cairo and presented him with a detailed report on the talks he had held with Shamir, Arens, Peres, and Rabin. More than the United States, Egypt currently views itself as a natural "bridge" between Israel and the PLO, and between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel can no longer prevent this from happening. The free contact the Egyptian Embassy in Israel and Western consulates in East Jerusalem maintain with the residents of the territories has created a situation where indirect negotiations between Israel and the PLO are being maintained, though official Jerusalem will not recognize it. Various European countries are playing a similar role. It can be disclosed today that several days before Shamir left for Spain, a senior Spanish official came to Israel to feel out the situation, and reported his impressions to the Spanish prime minister and King Hassan of Morocco on the eve of the Casablanca summit. Spain presented a similar report to Morocco and the PLO after Shamir's visit there.

Furthermore, the fact that the Casablanca summit responded to Bush's request not to lock the door on the Israeli proposal may soon contribute to a raising of the level of the contacts between the United States and the PLO. Not only Mubarak is urging Bush to do so. The UK, France, and Spain also urge the United States to press Israel to make haste with its clarifying answers to the United States and Egypt. Egyptian commentators clearly say that Egypt wants to push Shamir into a corner. If he refuses to respond to the requested clarifications he will be portrayed as someone who tried to con the world. If, however, Shamir overcomes the opposition in his camp—as Egypt is hoping he will—and the Likud institutions will approve his initiative as it was presented to the government with no substantial changes introduced, the drive could continue, and Israel could be pressed further.

Accordingly, everyone is waiting for the conclusion of the Likud Central Committee debate early next month. Until that time the PLO and Egypt will increase their political activity in the West, and will do everything within their power to maintain an Arab front united around the Casablanca summit resolutions. Another step can be expected to take place during the convention of the heads of states of the Arab economic union in Alexandria tomorrow. This first conference of the new Arab economic framework is convening to discuss economic cooperation between Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Yemen, and pass a resolution on the founding of a pan-Arabic system of communications-via-satellite. It is nonetheless certain that Mubarak will report to Husayn on Ghali's talks in Jerusalem, and on the U.S.-PLO talks in Tunis. Either way, if in the past we spoke of a "hot summer" of activities on the borders, we can now say that we are entering a "very hot political summer," at the end of which—and not before—we will be able to determine whether the Middle East is heading toward a continuation of the political activity, or to an increase of the defensive tension.

Shomron on Security in North, Quelling Uprising

TA1606072989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Report by military correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Last night, Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said that in the past year, 30 squads tried to infiltrate into Israel from the northern border in order to kill. All of them were captured and eliminated. The struggle, he said, is not only along the northern fence. It is also being conducted in the security zone and north of it. Approximately 200 terrorists have been killed inside Lebanon in air raids and other IDF [Israel Defense Forces] raids, and another 55 were killed at the border fence. The air raids are, among other things, a reaction to the repeated terrorist attempts to infiltrate into Israel in a bid to carry out attacks.

Speaking at the economic club in Ashqelon last night, the chief of staff also said: We have the power and ability to bring about a situation in which the violent activity in the territories will reach a tolerable level. In the same breath, he also leveled criticism at people, including public figures, who try to delude the nation regarding the possibilities of eliminating the intifadah [uprising].

[Begin Shomron recording] There is the influence of those who ask: Why is the intifadah not being quelled? I sometimes get the impression from the media that there may be what I call an administrative oversight: They create the impression that someone has merely forgotten to issue the order to put an end to the intifadah. Let me say that the experience gleaned by different armies and military governments in the world faced with similar situations has not been encouraging. Nonetheless, in every field we have succeeded where others failed. I am therefore convinced that we will succeed here, too. Yet those who have been successful—if they were indeed successful—in quelling such uprisings, which do not involve armed soldiers but civilians banded together to achieve a goal, used three methods: The first, transfer; the second, starvation; and the third, genocide [last word in English], shooting. What do those who who call for an immediate end to the intifadah have in mind? Do they mean one of these three ways? [end recording]

The IDF operates within the confines of the law. If the army in Israel acts in contravention of the law, this will not mean a split in Israeli society alone, but also in the army itself.

[Begin Shomron recording] I suggest that people notice carefully that the Chinese did not shoot at Palestinians. The Chinese Army shot at Chinese civilians. And already many countries, including the United States and the European countries, have severed ties—including economic ties—with the PRC. But the Chinese did not shoot at other people; they shot at their own people, at home. [end recording]

Later the chief of staff addressed media reports on personnel reshuffles and new appointments in the IDF.

[Begin Shomron recording] The military system is very different from the political system insofar as appointments are concerned. In the civilian network it is only natural for a candidate to establish a lobby. In the army, on the other hand, there is no such thing. It is inconceivable for commanders to set up their own lobby and address the media, in effect saying how wonderful they are and how inferior the others are compared to them. After all, in times of war these people must issue orders which must not only go unchallenged but which also involve a great risk to the lives of us all. Will such people, who had just before told the media how bad or worthless this person or that person is, be obeyed? Is this the proper ground to base a military system that must confront difficult, life-threatening situations? [end recording]

The generals, said Lieutenant General Shomron, have approached me, asking why their names did not appear on the lists. Most of the reports on this, however, are utter nonsense, said Lt Gen Shomron. From the point of view of the army, this is a very serious process. The IDF cannot have lobbies.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 16 June adds that Shomron "expressed confidence in the ability of the IDF to deal with the challenges" facing it, "saying that the army has already carefully assessed the threats of the future battlefield and developed its answers. But if national policy—no matter who sets it or on what issue—would continue to be based on the bedrock of a strong army, then investment must be made accordingly, the chief of staff went on. It's unrealistic to talk about cutting defense budgets while still expecting the army to provide the answer for every situation, he said. Gen Shomron said he was particularly concerned that people are calling for an easier life and failing to realize that Israel is still in a struggle for its very existence."]

Mitzna' on Deterrence of Molotov, Stone Throwers

TA1606073689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, says that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has managed to deter the throwers of Molotov cocktails. Its success has been more limited, however, in deterring stone throwers. In a meeting with settlers from the Gush 'Ezyon area, Maj Gen Mitzna' added that the army should not influence government decisions. It should, however, constantly present the cabinet with a real and accurate picture of the situation.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that in the meeting, the settlers raised the problem of the stone throwers and the need for a road to circumvent the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. Some settlers also told him that he is making a serious mistake by retiring.

2 IDF Soldiers 'Slightly' Wounded in Lebanon

TA1506202289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Two IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] soldiers were wounded slightly tonight in the security zone in southern Lebanon. The soldiers were wounded when several mortar shells were fired at an IDF squad which was operating in the eastern sector near Kawkaba. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the force returned fire.

'Anxiety' in Treasury Seen Worsening Situation

TA1506173689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Jun 89 p A3

[Commentary by Yitzhaq Deutsch: "The Anxiety in the Finance Ministry Exacerbates Tensions in the Economy"]

[Text] The Treasury is feeling the heat. There are signs that its actions are dictated by headlines. The recent data on economic developments is harsh, although no outstanding developments occurred in the last week. Nevertheless, the remarks of Dov Lautman, Industrialists Association president, as well as the press headlines, increased the uncertainty and pressure in and on the Treasury. The blame does not necessarily lie with the data itself, but mainly with its reverberations in the media. The Treasury's reactions reflected a sense of insecurity: Having adopted new economic measures about 6 months ago, the Treasury is no longer certain these measures will help achieve the goals.

Finance Minister Shim'on Peres' appearance on television did nothing to allay the public's concern. Except for adding some more gloomy descriptions of the the economic slump, his remarks contained no new message. The economic measures about which he spoke are not new; they have been debated for some time now and, by their nature, will have no immediate effect.

In the present situation, the finance minister is expected to take one of the two following steps: If he has any new measures to propose, he must implement them; if he has none—he should stop declaring that he does. It is preferable to adhere to the tools of the already announced policy.

The heat on the Finance Ministry has increased the tension in the economy, with many people questioning the economic leadership's adequacy. Even Bank of Israel officials have openly expressed their fear that "quack medicine" is liable to be used.

The gravity of the economic situation has been compounded by a new element: The state of pressure on the Treasury. This situation has exacerbated the economic system's volatility, just as the economic consultations conducted in large public forums have merely served to increase the expectations and uncertainty in the economy.

Security Forces Uncover Hamas Cell in Gaza

TA1606041489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The security forces have uncovered another group of members of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Gaza. The squad members are charged with having murdered a local resident who was suspected of assisting the authorities. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday demolished the homes of two squad members in the Zaytun neighborhood of Gaza who confessed to the charges. The IDF spokesman reported that the squad members were activated by Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin via contacts.

Collaborator Killed, 6 Wounded in Clashes 15 Jun

TA1506163189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Zahidi Muhammad al-Immam, a 46-year-old resident of Khan Yunus, was stabbed by masked persons in the city today. He later died in the hospital. Local residents in the Gaza Strip said that he was suspected of assisting the authorities.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a 17-year-old girl from the al-Shati' refugee camp was severely wounded by gunfire and taken to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Local residents in the Gaza Strip maintained that two residents of Khan Yunus, as well as two residents of Gaza, were wounded in clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Military sources noted that the Gaza Strip was relatively quiet today. Stores and schools were opened, and laborers reported for work in Israel.

In Ramallah this afternoon, a 16-year-old girl was wounded in the leg by a plastic bullet when a riot was being dispersed.

Further Woundings Reported

TA1506203689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Near the settlement of Vered Yeriho, stones were thrown tonight at an Israeli car transporting Jewish workers from Jericho to Jerusalem. One man was slightly injured; he was treated on the spot.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this afternoon an army patrol was attacked with stones in the Tulkarm District village of Bayt Lid. The soldiers opened fire at the rioters. Military sources reported one wounded, but local residents have said that three men were wounded, one of them critically.

In disturbances in the Tulkarm refugee camp, a 22-year-old youth was wounded this afternoon by soldiers' gunfire. He was transferred to the Rafidiyah Hospital in Nabulus. [passage omitted]

Curfew Imposed on 2 Gaza Refugee Camps 16 Jun

TA1606043589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] This morning the security forces imposed a curfew on the al-Burayj and Shabura refugee camps. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has reported that this morning many laborers left for work in Israel as usual and that life in the Gaza Strip is proceeding normally.

Al-Duhayshah Under Curfew

TA1606075689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The security forces imposed a curfew on the al-Duhayshah refugee camp this morning. The car belonging to Knesset Member Hanan Porat was stoned this morning as he was passing the camp. The roof of the vehicle was damaged, although no one was hurt. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the curfew on the Tulkarm and al-Fari'ah refugee camps near Nabulus is still in effect.

A Molotov cocktail was hurled last night at an Israeli vehicle traveling near Dayr Ballut junction in the Ramallah District. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The security forces have launched searches.

Paper Carries Interview With Prime Minister

JN1506110089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jun 89 p 15

["Text" of interview with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir with the London-based AL-HAWADITH; date, place not given]

[Text] [AL-HAWADITH] What are the results of the process of reconsidering the economic, electoral, and information policies?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] From the economic aspect, we are now facing a dilemma. When this government was formed, we began setting up an economic team to study the details and to look into the Kingdom's financial burdens. In the next few weeks, we will take measures to remedy the situation. We will try to deal with the IMF out of our commitment to the letter of intent signed with the IMF. We will also contact fraternal Arab states that promised to look into Jordan's needs with great understanding of our current circumstances.

In this regard, I would like to stress that we have received help from fraternal Arab states. We appreciate this help and thank the brothers for this. But, we are now facing a crisis; and, therefore, we yearn for more aid from the brothers and I do not believe that they will be late in coming to our aid in this critical phase.

Regarding elections, in the royal letter of designation, his majesty the king stated that it is necessary to hold parliamentary elections. This is one of our main tasks and we will work on it. We have held a number of meetings to study the issue, the latest of which took place just before this interview. Our plan is to hold the elections before the end of this year, God willing. The elections in the Kingdom will be free so that the elected parliament can form a force which will back and support the establishment of bases for political life. It will have a principal and active role in decisionmaking according to the Constitution and laws. We will also seek to give freedom to the press, and we have taken measures to implement the royal desire expressed in the letter of designation.

[AL-HAWADITH] You and your brothers are facing a burden because ruling, particularly during this critical phase, is like a crematorium [mahraqah]. If you were not up to the level of responsibility, you would not have been entrusted with the premiership. To what extent are you certain that you can overcome the economic crisis during a phase of Arab and international economic recession?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I am confident that Jordan will overcome this critical phase. However, and this must be clear to my Jordanian brothers and kinfolk, this will not be an easy process. This country has witnessed difficulties and critical circumstances which the Jordanian citizen endured, confronted, and succeeded in overcoming. I am confident that we will overcome these difficulties because when the Jordanian citizen understands the problem with all its dimensions, he will stand up and tolerate the current circumstances.

[AL-HAWADITH] It is said that Iraq, Kuwait, and Oman have given Jordan $80 million after the recent events in the south, and that Iraq promised to give an extra $10 million and the United Arab Emirates between $35 and $40 million. Can Jordan's budget depend on aid from Arab countries?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] The Arab brothers have, thankfully, given us help. I believe we will adjust our affairs in a manner that will absorb those sums and use them to ease the pressure on the Jordanian citizen. We hope that the Arab brothers will continue this support until we pass through our current critical phase.

[AL-HAWADITH] What are the aims of the large-scale transfers among the state civil servants?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We have studied the state apparatus and the administrative organization of the government apparatus structure. Our basic aim is that the employee becomes, as is said in English, a civil servant for the citizen. He should not abuse his powers and authority in dealing with the citizen, as is known in the Third World. Our aim is to reactivate the state apparatus in the service of the citizen and raise the standard of the civil servant so that he will be on a level befitting his country from all aspects related to his quality, honesty, and rendering of services to his citizens.

[AL-HAWADITH] There has been a campaign of leaflets against former officials and senior civil servants. Were the leaflets aimed at giving vent to public grievance or did they exceed their limits?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I believe that the Jordanian citizen is aware that each and every official and civil servant in this country seeks to serve his homeland and citizens. There might be some erroneous personal judgements. An official might err or be right. Every official is liable to err, but what is important is that we should know that the officials are trying to serve according to their convictions, approaches, and the way they view matters. Not every official can please every citizen. There is room for error, mistaken judgement, and misinterpretation, too. I think that the campaign of leaflets will come to an end. There are other channels through which the citizen can express his opinion.

[AL-HAWADITH] To what extent will Jordan's Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] membership provide support for its national economy?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We hope that in the long run there would be room for that. The ACC aims primarily at economic cooperation. The ACC states are now in a difficult economic phase and our aim is to seek an economic integration among the four states. We are still

seeking to attain this objective and I hope that the results will begin to emerge. However, this will not take place as quickly as some might expect. Nevertheless, the main objective will continue to present itself and we will gradually implement integration that will benefit the citizens in the four states.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you regard the ACC as a gigantic bloc on which the Arabs can depend in all domains?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] There is no doubt about this because its four states, which comprise about 80 million citizens, constitute a large percentage of the Arab nation's population. There is no doubt that the course pursued by the four states is for the welfare of all the Arab states. We seek to bolster ties among the other Arab states; the establishment of the ACC is in itself a service rendered to the Arab nation.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is the ACC liable to expansion and accession of other Arab states to it?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] The first ACC statement welcomed the accession of any sisterly Arab state that wishes to do so. On this occasion, I would like to say that this grouping is not an axis or a bloc, but a grouping for the welfare of the four member states and the Arab nation.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are you strengthening political coordination between Jordan and Syria?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We hope to promote contacts and joint political action with Syria because it is a neighboring and sisterly country. We hope to visit Syria next month for the convening of the higher joint Syrian-Jordanian committee, especially since this time it is the Jordanian prime minister's turn to visit Damascus after the Syrian prime minister visited us 3 months ago. These meetings play a very important role in entrenching relations between the two countries.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you agree to the establishment of an eastern Arab economic union along the lines of the Benelux between Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We hope that this goal will be achieved by the economic grouping we formed through the establishment of the ACC.

[AL-HAWADITH] Jordan bought French Mirage 2000 aircraft and cancelled the British-Italian-West German Tornado deal. Is its Air Force strong and has it strengthened its relations with France at the expense of its relations with Britain?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] Our air defense is good. Nevertheless, we must remember that the enemy before us is armed with the most modern U.S. aircraft. Therefore, we seek to develop our Air Force and air defense system to be qualified to defend our country and the Arab east.

Concerning the Mirage planes and relations between Jordan and France and Jordan and Britain, we have not strengthened our relations with either at the expense of the other. Cancelling the deal with Britain was due to the financial issues and economic capabilities at present. There is no other reason.

[AL-HAWADITH] The successive Jordanian governments have left their marks and characteristics in their capacity as an executive authority over the big role played by Jordan locally, regionally, and internationally. How will the coming stage, which will carry your name, be characterized?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] First, I hope we will be able to overcome the economic crisis we are going through. On the other hand, we hope to implement his majesty the king's directive on the issue of parliamentary elections in which he ordered that we realize this ambition. I believe that if we succeed in these two issues, we would have achieved something. I hope the Jordanian citizen will help in realizing this.

[AL-HAWADITH] In your heart of hearts, there are the residues of a pure military man. Are you assured about the fate of the institution you have left to assume the premiership?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] There is no doubt that the Armed Forces in our country are professional national forces of a high level of training. They include the qualified leaders to lead them. They will undoubtedly continue and improve, God willing.

[AL-HAWADITH] Since you are a true architect in building the Jordanian Army, do you have new ideas on developing the Jordanian defense force? And how will you deal with this issue in light of the economic crisis?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] Unfortunately, our ambitions in the civilian and military lives are greater than our capabilities on the level of the state in general and his majesty the king in particular. We have plans and a study to develop our Armed Forces. However, we are going to have to give them careful consideration and deliberation due to the financial limitations until we manage to overcome the economic crisis we are going through and the time comes when we can realize them.

[AL-HAWADITH] News agencies have reported that the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] has sold one third of its gold reserves for foreign currencies in order to provide a liquidity of foreign currency. When a similar proposal was made in Lebanon 2 years ago, many people stood against it because it would lead to a drop in the value of the Lebanese pound. Do you think that the Jordanian dinar is able to withstand the liquidity of such a percentage of its gold reserves without being exposed to further drop in value?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We hope we will not face any further drop; and I believe that we can now maintain the value of the dinar. Despite the drop it suffered during the past 8 months and the difficult crisis, the government endeavors to maintain the level and value of the Jordanian dinar.

[AL-HAWADITH] The new CBJ governor, Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, said that the dinar's rate of exchange will be tied to a basket of currencies instead of being tied to the U.S. dollar alone. What are the currencies which the CBJ is thinking of using in the proposed basket? Does this mean giving up the restoration of the CBJ's gold reserves?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] No, certainly not. It means that we will not be tied to a single currency only. It is known that the dollar has witnessed phases of ups and downs; and now it is going up. However, when the dinar is tied to a number of currencies, the possibility of the dinar's fluctuation will reduce. If the dollar goes up, the pound sterling, the yen, or the deutsche mark will maintain their rate. This preserves more stability for the dinar.

[AL-HAWADITH] It has been rumored recently that a foreign company made definite oil discoveries in the northern part of Jordan. Where have the projects for oil development in Jordan reached? Do you expect Jordan to become self-sufficient in this field? What is the quality of the discovered oil? Has associated gas been discovered?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We are seriously and enthusiastically searching and drilling for oil. We have a number of foreign companies doing this in addition to the national effort in this regard. However, we have not discovered quantities of oil which we can say are enough for local consumption. We have discovered a good quantity of gas and we began to use it. We have not discovered oil in the quantity we hoped to discover; but, still, we discovered a good quality of oil. We are still optimistic in this regard, and all reports indicate that the possibility of finding oil still exists.

[AL-HAWADITH] The Iraqi Government had planned a project to build a pipeline across the Jordanian territories to carry oil to the port of al-'Aqabah. Although this project was in the past connected to the security situation in the Gulf and the need to find alternative terminals for Iraqi oil, it is rumored that the project is still proposed. Is there serious thinking about executing that project?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] No. The Iraqi brothers built pipelines across Turkey and sisterly Saudi Arabia and I do not think they need a new pipeline across Jordan. We, together with the Iraqi brothers, were enthusiastic about building such a pipeline but that project was not executed.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you expect some sort of economic integration within the ACC similar to that of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] We are seeking economic integration. Our objective is that this integration should be real and every state should benefit from the capabilities of the other states so that we can help the Arab citizen in these states overcome the problem of imports and so that we will begin to depend on ourselves. These states' industrial, agricultural, and other potentials are large. Once we can establish this cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit among all these states, we will have achieved a great deal. I stress that all these states are serious in undertaking this task in a manner that will be feasible for the citizen and that will be felt by the Arab citizen in these states.

[AL-HAWADITH] How do you assess the current stage in the light of the "accord and reconciliation" policy generated by the Arab summit in Amman and to what extent do you consider your government's policy an extension of it?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] The government policy, to which his majesty the king has directed us, has always been based on this principle whether at the time of this government or the previous ones. His majesty the king always tries to bring the Arabs together and reconcile them. I believe that the present atmosphere among the Arab states is excellent. This was evident in the Casablanca summit which was attended by all states and which managed to streamline relations among the sisterly states. The summit was also clear in dealing with crises and problems facing the Arab nation. The leaders are convinced of the importance of "accord and reconciliztion" in serving the Arab causes.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is your assessment of the new U.S. Administration's stands toward resolving the Middle East crisis compared with the stands of the previous U.S. Administration?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I believe that the new U.S. Administration's stand is positive and good. President Bush is informed about what is happening and has good experience in foreign politics. He was the U.S. permanent envoy at the United Nations, a former ambassador, and held the post of vice president for 8 years. He is aware of the details of the Middle East issue and has a good background in this regard. His trend, as well as that of his secretary of state, is positive and I believe that he will try to deal with the region's issues in a fair manner.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is your stand toward the U.S. support for Shamir's plan, which indicates U.S. adherence to the Israeli stand exactly as was the case at the time of President Raeagan's administration?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I do not think that the principle governing it is the same as that of President Reagan's era. I believe they are dealing with problems in a more rational and fair manner. If Shamir wishes to solve this issue peacefully, he should answer the following important question: Does he accept the principle of peace for land? If his answer is positive, then there is no problem. But he wants land and peace in his own way. This is naturally unacceptable and rejected by us as Arabs. Our stand toward this issue is to back and support the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. We support what the Palestinian brothers want.

[AL-HAWADITH] What is the situation of Jordanian-Soviet relations today?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] Soviet-Jordanian relations are very good. There is understanding on all levels, whether concerning bilateral relations or our stand on the Middle East issue. The Soviet Union's stand is satisfactory and good. We agree with them on many points, if not all.

[AL-HAWADITH] Did the Casablanca summit achieve the expected success?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I believe it achieved great successes. I think we always hope for too much. In my opinion, it achieved considerable success.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has the expected Riyadh summit become a stone's throw away?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I believe the next summit in Riyadh has now become possible.

[AL-HAWADITH] Jordan, during the summit, presented some proposals which were not fully accepted. Do you believe the Jordanian proposal is still under consideration and that it has a chance of being accepted in the future?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] This depends on the results of the work of the tripartite committee which was formed by the summit. We hope the three leaders will succeed in overcoming, solving, or helping to solve this crisis. Of course, after the set period of 6 months is up we will review all these issues. We, and his majesty the king are concerned about what is happening in Lebanon. We are pained at what the Lebanese people are going through. We still consider Lebanon and attempt what is within our means to reduce the suffering of the Lebanese and hope that the three leaders will solve the problem.

[AL-HAWADITH] After the Casablanca summit discussions, how do you see the fate of Lebanon? Are you optimistic about an early solution to the crisis?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I believe, as I said earlier, that King Fahd, King Hassan, and President Chadli, have started their efforts. We are optimistic about this good effort. I believe that King Hassan II stated two days ago that after the time is up, he will ask for convening a summit to present the viewpoint of the three countries on the issue of a solution for Lebanon. We hope, that after the Arab leaders hear the opinions of the three leaders they will discuss their next moves in the summit. As I said previously, his majesty is greatly concerned about this issue.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the international conference?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] I do not believe it is possible to convene the international conference in the near future. However, we still believe that the international conference is the only means to solving the Palestine question. We still believe that holding the international conference is the best way for a solution.

[AL-HAWADITH] The Jordanians believe, and rightly so, that you are successful because of the past responsibilities entrusted upon you. The successful person is like an excellent swimmer: If he wants to drown himself, he will not succeed. What projects of future achievements have you prepared for them?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] Firstly, as a government, we hope to serve the citizen and provide him with government organs that will respond to his needs. Then, we will provide him with the climate and opportunity to practice his democratic right in free and honest elections. During the period when I am a prime minister I hope to strengthen our relations with the Arab brothers.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has international detente removed the tension or are there other steps expected from the superpowers?

[Zayd Ibn-Shakir] International detente has contributed effectively toward reducing tension generally. It is obvious to us that solutions to a number of regional issues have begun. The two superpowers, however, have a large scope in continuing down this line. Our impression in Jordan is that the superpowers are indeed continuing down this line.

Belgian Hostage Jan Cools Released Near Sidon

NC1506110189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] An urgent report which has just arrived indicates that Belgian Doctor Jan Cools, who was a hostage in southern Lebanon, was set free in the Sidon area a short while ago. Cools moved to the residence of Mustafa Sa'd, where he is currently having a meeting with him.

Cools was kidnapped over 18 months ago [as heard] by a group calling itself the Soldiers of Right.

Further on Release

NC1506105189 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Beirut, June 15 [AFP]—Jan Cools, a 33-year-old Belgian physician, was freed Thursday in the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon after 13 months in captivity, a local militia group announced.

The release, announced by the Popular Nasserite Organization, followed by a statement Wednesday by the Soldiers of Right that it would soon free Dr. Cools, who was kidnapped in southern Lebanon on May 21, 1988.

Belgian Minister Cited

NC1606095189 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Athens, June 16 (AFP)—Jan Cools, a 33-year old Belgian doctor freed Thursday [15 June] in Lebanon after 13 months in captivity, arrived in Greece Friday from Damascus accompanied by Belgian Trade Minister Robert Urbain and a fellow member of the Norwegian charity organisation NORWAC [Norwegian Aid Committee].

Mr. Cools was welcomed at Athens Airport by his parents and will stay the weekend in the Greek capital before returning to Belgium on Monday.

Mr. Urbain said Mr. Cools had not been physically ill-treated by his captors but had been kept blindfolded and in total ignorance of what was happening.

He was abducted on May 21 while travelling between the al-Rashidiyah Palestinian camp in southern Lebanon to the port of Tyre which is controlled by the Shi'ite Amal Movement.

In a statement to the press, Mr. Urbain said Mr. Cools' release was a "first step" and added that there were "positive signs" for a possible release of other Western hostages held in Lebanon.

Mr. Urbain said the release of Mr. Cools was not the result of a "trade-off" but rather a "goodwill" gesture resulting from a three-day visit he made to Libya last week.

Mr. Urbain said he believed Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was anxious to improve his country's relations with Europe and had insisted that Mr. Cools be handed over to Mr. Urbain in person.

Mr. Cools was escorted on Thursday to Sidon where he was handed over to Mr. Urbain at the home of Mustafa Sa'd, the leader of the Sunni Muslim Nasirite Popular Organisation which controls the city.

The former hostage expressed his thanks to Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for organising his release. He declined to identify his captors.

A shadowy organisation calling itself the "Soldiers of Right" claimed last December to be holding Mr. Cools but nothing has been heard of the group since.

The Abu Nidal organisation denied any involvement in Mr. Cools' kidnapping although it admits to holding five other Belgians and two French women. The seven were seized in November 1987, along with two children aboard a boat in the Mediterranean. Last December the two French children, Mari-Laure and Virginie Valente, were released "at the request of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi."

Another 16 Westerners including nine Americans are still held in Lebanon.

VOM on Release

NC1506142889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to lebanon 1400 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Belgian Doctor Jan Cools has been freed after being held hostage for approximately 13 months. He is now at the home of Eng Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, along with Belgian charge d'affaires in Lebanon Gilbert Bioul and the director of trade at the Belgian Foreign Ministry.

Cools has announced that he will hold talks with the relief organization NORWAC [Norwegian Aid Committee], for which he works, to convince it to keep him in Lebanon. He expressed his thanks to the Fatah Revolutionary Council and to Eng Sa'd for their efforts to release him.

Cools is expected to head for Damascus accompanied by the Belgian delegation.

Israeli Aircraft Raid Al-Biqa', Tyre Areas

Helicopters Comb Al-Biqa'

NC1506171089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli helicopters combed the area of Jabal al-Dahr in western al-Biqa' this afternoon. The same area was simultaneously subjected to artillery fire. Security

sources attributed this to reports on movements by the fundamentalists to carry out operations against Israeli and South Lebanese Army positions.

Raid Al-Biqa' 15 Jun

NC1506172289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1645 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] After the Israeli air raids on the mountain areas yesterday, Israeli helicopters this afternoon carried out three air raids on Jabal al-Dahr, south of the town of Libbaya in western al-Biqa'. The raids were preceded by artillery shelling from South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions inside the so-called security zone. The shelling lasted a ½ hour.

In another development, an Islamic resistance source has announced that a 15-man Israeli infantry group advanced 4 km north of the so-called security zone and clashed with a reconnaissance group belonging to the Islamic resistance in Tall al-Daydabah in Jabal al-Dahr. The Israeli artillery and helicopters then intervened and the Israeli group withdrew to the so-called security zone. The source affirmed there were no casualties in the ranks of the Islamic resistance.

Fighters Conduct Raid

NC1606053789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0534 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Six Israeli Skyhawk fighters carried out an air strike against the al-Rashidiyah area at 0600 today. The Israeli aircraft used air-to-surface missiles in their attack.

Camp Near Tyre Bombed

NC1606081289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided Fatah Revolutionary Council positions in al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre at 0600 today. The raid, according to Fatah Revolutionary Council sources, failed to inflict human losses. The sources added tht the camp was subjected to concentrated bombardment during the raid.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while flying over the capital at 1030 today.

Further on Air Strike

JN1606125489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The Israeli planes raided Lebanon again today. The raid targetted the Tyre area. [passage omitted]

The area's sources stressed that the Israeli planes did not target military positions only, but they also bombarded several buildings in the nearby al-Rashidiyah camp. The bombardment also scored direct hits on a kindergarten. Two children who were in the kindergarten were wounded.

A Fatah Revolutionary Council source said that the Israeli raid has destroyed one of its positions, but it did not mention any human losses.

Meanwhile, a source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has said that positions belonging to the Front were also hit. However, it did not mention any human losses.

2 Israeli Soldiers Wounded Near Kawkaba

NC1506202489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Two Israeli soldiers were wounded near the village of Kawkaba in the security zone when an Israeli patrol came under mortar fire. The two soldiers were transferred to the Ram Bam hospital in Haifa.

Syrian Artillery Shells Jubayl Coast 16 Jun

NC1606073489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The Jubayl coast came under long-range artillery fire from Syrians guns for 20 minutes beginning at 0750 this morning. Artillery bombardment of the Kasrawan coast last night set a fuel tanker on fire. The ship, which was anchored off the coast, was carrying 7 million liters of gasoline.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Tunisian Deputies

JN1506134189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies' delegation led by Slaheddine Baly, president of the chamber and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union. The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, People's Assembly speaker, and Abdelhamid 'Ammar, Tunisian ambassador in Damascus.

At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Hamid Khaddam received the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies' delegation led by Slaheddine Baly. The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'id, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly; Ahmad 'Isa, Syrian ambassador in Tunis; and Abdelhamid 'Ammar, Tunisian ambassador in Damascus. The conferees discussed Arab affairs, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the situation in Lebanon. The conferees also reviewed bilateral relations and ways to develop them.

Further on Meeting

JN1506160089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today received the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies' delegation led by Slaheddine Baly, president of the chamber and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union. Present at the meeting was People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. Baly gave the president a letter from Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on relations between the two sisterly countries. President al-Asad gave him a letter containing his greetings to President Ben Ali and the Tunisian people.

During the meeting, they talked about Arab developments. Baly said he was happy with the outcome of his visit to Syria and his talks with Syrian officials.

Paper Says Shamir Plan 'Superseded, Dead'

JN1606071689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Jun 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with Shamir's plan which aims to destroy the valiant Palestinian intifadah [uprising].

AL-THAWRAH says: At a time when the stone-throwing revolutionaries have scored victories in the battle inside occupied Palestine, and at a time when Israel is suffocating by international isolation following the collapse of its claims and its failure to deal with its acute economic, political, and social crises, the government of the Zionist enemy is trying to sell Shamir's plan. This with the knowledge that this plan is as old as the occupation. It is a used up plan and rejected by the Palestinian people, particularly the intifadah revolutionaries.

Hence, the penetration which Israel seeks to achieve—and this is really the main objective of Shamir's plan—through the intifadah's walls has not, and will not be realized. This is not primarily because the plan did not bring anything new or because it is superseded and dead, but because the stone-throwing revolutionaries will not accept any alternative to their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and establishing their independent state on their national soil.

Paper Deplores 'Awn 'Phenomenon' in Lebanon

JN1606064689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Jun 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen, under the headline "The Isolationist Clique—an Abnormal Phenomenon," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The Casablanca summit was concluded almost 3 weeks ago; and the three-member committee was entrusted with the task of following up the summit's integrated resolutions on the Lebanese question. However, this committee is still facing the problem of the obstacles that are demonstrated in the Byzantine argument which the isolationist clique relies on to escape the facts, prolong the crisis, and obstruct the three-member committee as was the case with the six-member [Arab League ministerial] committee.

Al-BA'TH adds: The summit's resolutions embodied an integrated program for national action that will restore to Lebanon its health, preserve its unity, and achieve justice for all its sons.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Every now and then, the isolationist clique led by 'Awn comes out with a new excuse and an unfounded justification to keep Lebanon divided. That clique is the obstacle before the march of saving Lebanon. It is an abnormal phenomenon that must be rooted out because it is a cheap tool at the hands of the Zionist enemy and Saddam Husayn's conspiratorial regime.

Afghanistan

102 'Extremists' Killed During Fighting

LD1506171589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The treacherous extremists, protected by Pakistan and Saudi Wahhabis, by their shameful and inhumane actions have attempted to disrupt the life of the people in the villages of Shakardara district and to (?kill) our innocent compatriots in Kabul city using long-range missiles.

The units and subunits of the courageous armed forces, who always defend the social life of our compatriots, have attacked and inflicted crushing blows on them during a successful operation.

The military section of the BIA reports that as a result of this successful operation by the brave units and sub-units of the armed forces, 102 warmongering extremists attached to the Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups, including 9 ringleaders—Yasin, Kaka, Muhammad, Shokur, Hashmatollah, Momen, Abdorrazaq, Salim, and Wazir—were killed. Another 22 men, including 4 ringleaders—Bashir, Abdul Ghafar, engineer, and Abdallah—were injured. One Saudi Wahhabi instructer was among those killed.

During this combat operation one 70mm howitzer, one mortar, one recoilless gun, two rocket launchers, one BM-1 unit, one BM-12 unit, one 122mm howitzer, 122 light weapons, two ammunition depots, one foodstuff depot, three strongholds, one motor vehicle loaded with weapons and ammunition, three enemy headquarters, three horses and four mules loaded with weapons and ammunition were destroyed.

The personnel of the units and sub-units who displayed heroism during the combat operation in the surroundings of Shakardara District were commended at a meeting held in the headquarters of a military garrison in Kariz-Mir. Lieutenant General Muhammad Nabi Azemi, first deputy defense minister, and Major General Azim Zarmati, general commander of the defense of revolution, Ministry of Internal Affairs, presented badges and medals of the Republic of Afghanistan and awards of extraordinary promotion.

'Extremists' Killed, Wounded in Various Provinces

LD1506200789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Mopping up operations which began sometime ago in Nangarhar Province, are successfully continuing. A large quantity of enemy weapons and ammunition were seized in yesterday's operations. An authorized Armed Forces source told BAKHTAR's military section that yesterday our Armed Forces units continued mopping up and search operations east and west of Jalalabad city, during which they seized enemy missiles, assorted rounds of heavy weapons ammunition mortars, and antivehicle and antipersonnel mines.

The report adds that the enemy, which has lost the will for direct confrontation with the militant Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, fires long-range weapons on residential areas. They are supported by heavy weapons of Pakistan's XI Corps. As a result of yesterday's extremist attacks, three civilians were martyred and six others were wounded, including a member of the Armed Forces. In retaliation, the Armed Forces launched artillery, missiles, and air strikes against the joint enemy forces as a result of which 179 enemy troops, among them Pakistani militarists, Saudi Wahabis, and extremist groups linked to them, were killed and 128 were wounded.

The BM-1 units, three missile units, five mortars, six rocket launchers, five weapons and ammunition dumps, and nine vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

The report adds that Pakistani-linked extremists fired heavy weapons at some regions in Laghman Province yesterday, as a result of which two people were killed and two children and two women were wounded. In retaliation, the Armed Forces units in that province dealt shattering blows to the enemies of our people's peace and tranquility.

According to another report, during an attack on Khowst Major District by Pakistani-supported extremist groups, three civilians and two members of the Armed Forces were wounded. As a result of Air Force and missile attacks, the enemy lost 191 killed and 85 wounded. The majority of those killed and wounded are Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahabis. Four enemy mortars and nine recoilless guns were destroyed.

Another report states that as a result of mopping up and search operations in some regions of Qandahar Province, 25 Pakistani-linked extremists were killed. An extremist ringleader and eight others were captured and a large quantity of weapons and ammunition belonging to them were destroyed.

Other regions of the country as a whole are calm, and state and private traffic is flowing along the majority of highways and communication routes.

Ministry Urges Greater UN Role to Aid Refugees

LD1506204489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] A Foreign Ministryr spokesman made the following statement to BAKHTAR in connection with the return of increasing number of emigrants to the homeland and related issues:

Some time ago, Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil drew the attention of international organizations to the issue of aid for the resettlement of Afghan emigrants who are returning in large numbers from Iran, and in particular from Pakistan, to their country in letters sent to His Excellency (Saddrondin) Agha Khan, the organizer of UN humanitarian and economic assistance for Afghanistan, and His Excellency [name indistinct], UN high commissioner for refugee affairs.

Contrary to claims by a number of the UN refugee officials, who unfortunately intend to turn a blind eye to the return of Afghan emigrants to their country, a large number of refugees are returning home. The willingness to return to their country is increasing daily among the camps of Afghan emigrants in Pakistan.

The letters sent to the United Nations state that the Republic of Afghanistan is ready for any kind of cooperation concerning the resettlement of the emigrants in accordance with the Geneva accords. It requests that the other signatories of the Geneva accords and the United Nations fulfill their commitments on this issue.

It has been stressed in the messages sent by the foreign minister that solving the emigrant resettlement issue is not possible without international assistance particularly without the assistance of the relevant UN bodies. Unfortunately, so far neither of these two has taken any significant step in this connection.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added that, sadly, we can see that despite the efforts by the Republic of Afghanistan these international organizations have not shown the required dynamism in this connection. The returning refugees badly need various types of economic and humanitarian assistance. Taking into account the country's situation, the resources and means of the Republic of Afghanistan absolutely cannot meet the demands of the returnees. Therefore, the Afghan Foreign Ministry, having stressed the text of those messages, once again draws the attention of the United Nations, and above all the UN High Commission for Refugees, to the fulfillment of those commitments which have been entrusted to them in document two of the Geneva accords. It asks these organizations to increase their activities in connection with the return of the Afghan emigrants and their resettlement.

Bangladesh

Finance Minister Announces 1989-90 National Budget

BK1506165189 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 89

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpt] The national budget for the next fiscal year 1989-90 was announced by the finance minister, Dr Wahidul Haq, in parliament this afternoon. Revenue receipts for the year have been estimated at 7,180.53 crore takal. Receipts from customs and taxes are estimated at 5,615.95 crore and those from nontax sources at 1,564.58 crore takal. With revenue expenditure estimated at 6,900 crore takal, there is an estimated revenue surplus of 280.53 crore takal. After making adjustments in net deficit of 481.14 crore in the capital account, the (?investable) 150 crore financed by internal surplus of a number of public sector agencies and 82.30 crore as the overall positive outcome of food operation, the net domestic resource available for the next year's Annual Development Program [ADP] amounts to 31.69 crore takal.

The total outlay of the ADP is 5,803.02 crore takal. Out of this, 5,050 crore will be available as external assistance, which includes 3,250 crore takal as project assistance, 1,500 crore as counterpart fund generated by commodity aid, and 300 crore as food assistance. The total resources available for implementing the ADP is 5,081.69 crore takal, leaving a resource gap of 721.33 crore. This gap will be met with new fiscal measures and bank loans. The outlay of 5,803.02 crore of ADP includes 2,553 crore in local currency of which 753 crore will be provided from the government's own resources. On this basis, 87 percent of the expenditure for the ADP will be financed by aid and 13 percent by domestic resources.

The growth rate next year has been estimated at 5.91 percent. As a result of floods and other natural disasters, the growth rate during the current year may be around 2 percent.

Giving a brief resume of sectorial allocation, the finance minister said priority will be given to those sectors which received higher priority of the allocation of investment resources. In consonance with the basic objectives and strategies of the ongoing third five-year plan, the prospective plan, and the fourth five-year plan now under preparation, priority would be given to productive sectors, particularly those directed toward poverty alleviation and employment generation, agriculture, and irrigation, together with better use of water resources, rural development particularly rural infrastructure, which contributes to other nonfarm rural output expansion.

In the annual development program of the next fiscal year, the highest allocation of 743.63 crore takal has been made for flood control and water resources. The next highest allocation goes to electricity sector with 700.60 crore takal. Transport sector gets 598.15 crore takal while agriculture received 490.27 crore takal; 344.79 crore takal has been earmarked for education and religious affairs sector, while 303.04 takal for population and family planning sector. A 150 crore takal has been set aside for the greater Dhaka city flood control project.

The finance minister announced that the expenditure for implementing the interim benefits to government officials and staff announced by the president has been estimated at 480 crore takal and has been included in the proposed budget. [passage omitted]

India

Gandhi Explains IPKF Withdrawal From Sri Lanka

BK1506145289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has said India is prepared to have joint parleys with the Sri Lanka Government for full discussions on the pending issues of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement and withdrawal of the peacekeeping force [PKF]. Mr Rajiv Gandhi reiterated that the peacekeeping force will be withdrawn only after the implementation of all the aspects of the agreement. He said India will announce the time frame for the PKF withdrawal after the agreement is totally implemented.

In an informal chat with newsmen at Madras Airport, the prime minister said India signed the agreement with the Sri Lankan Government to look after the security and safety of the Tamils there, and for this we are responsible for their security and safety as a guarantor of the agreement. It is our joint responsibility to see that the pending issues of the agreement are fully implemented.

Gandhi on U.S. Trade Act, China, Sri Lanka

BK1606094289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said the biggest threat to secularism in the country today is the communal forces, which are again raising their heads in different parts of the country. He said after a long time, majority of these forces are getting together on a communal platform. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at a ceremony to unveil the portrait of Indira Gandhi at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Calcutta this morning. He said secularism is one of the fundamental factors for India's survival, unity, and integrity. Paying glowing tributes to Indira Gandhi, the prime minister said she fought for certain basic principles on which she never compromised. [passage omitted]

Later, addressing newsmen at Calcutta airport before departure for New Delhi, the prime minister ruled out discussions with the United States on its recently announced decision on Trade Act Super 301 [as received], branding India as an unfair trade partner. He said we will not be dictated to by any foreign power on how to run our government. Mr Gandhi denied that the U.S. act has any connection with the launching of Agni [intermediate-range missile].

In reply to a question on recent happenings in China, the prime minister said India is watching the situation and will come out with its reaction at an appropriate time.

About Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said both India and Sri Lanka have equal responsibility to honor the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. He said he has received a letter from the Sri Lankan president and would reply to it soon.

About supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan, the prime minister said it will further increase the tension in the subcontinent.

Punjab Sikh Extremist Group Leader's Death Viewed

BK1606085689 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 16 Jun 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Sikh extremist group—the Babbar Khalsa—has suffered another setback with the death of their second in command in an explosion. With the details, Mark Tully:

[Begin Tully recording] According to the director general of the Punjab police force, Sukhjinder Singh Brar, the second in command of the extremist group known as the Babbar Khalsa, died in an explosion near Amritsar. Four of his colleagues were also killed in the farmhouse in which they are believed to have been manufacturing a bomb. The police have been searching for Sukhjinder Singh and had offered a reward of the equivalent of 4,000 pounds for information leading to his arrest. According to the director general of police, he masterminded the explosion at New Delhi railway station on Monday [12 June] in which 9 people died and at least 50 people were injured. The director general said the bomb was left at the station by two men sent to Delhi by Sukhjinder Singh. The police regard the Babbar Khalsa as the most highly motivated of the Sikh extremist groups and say they are specialists in explosives. The Sikh extremists have lost a large number of the leading members of their groups since the police stepped up their activities in districts, like Amritsar, which border on Pakistan. But the groups are still active. One new measure the police are taking is to arm the villagers. But last night, some villagers accidentally opened fire on a police patrol. They returned the fire and two villagers were injured. The extremists have recently killed several newspaper vendors who defied their ban on the distribution of papers belonging to the Hind Samachar group. This group is the fiercest critic of the Sikh extremists and has maintained that editorial line despite the killing of the founder and then his son. Several attempts have been made on the life of the family member who now heads the group. [end recording]

Paper Questions Bhutto's Restraint, Biased Views

BK1506152889 Delhi PATRIOT in English 9 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Bhutto Pays a Price"]

[Text] Premier Benazir Bhutto's current visit to the United States, described by her as marking a "new phase" in Pak-US ties, may have done a lot of good to her own position in Pakistan. She has reason now to cautiously plan her moves in the domestic field. Ms Bhutto needed the backing she has got from President George Bush. The choice of countries visited so far by

her—Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey and the US—has its own logic. The visit to the US has coincided with the increased domestic trouble she faces from Punjab-based politicians. Ms Bhutto needs Washington's political and practical support. She needed to demonstrate that she enjoys at least as much, if not more, US support as Gen Ziaul Haq. The finalisation of the sale of 60 F-16s to Pakistan by Washington and a special economic assistance of 466.5 million US dollar as a gesture of goodwill are certainly meant to tell her domestic detractors that she has US backing. The 60 aircraft alone cost Uncle Sam 1.4 billion US dollar. The premier may have proved that one does not have to be a general to extract substantial military assistance from Washington. She has succeeded in aligning her policy more closely with the changed US outlook on Afghanistan. Ms Bhutto told the US Congress that Pakistan does not possess, and has no intention of making, a nuclear weapon. However, she has revived the discredited American decision that the Pakistan bomb should be used to bully India into accepting the socalled regional solution of the nuclear weapon menace. India cannot accept this proposition to which Ms Bhutto has lent her backing. Ms Bhutto presumably has to pay a price for the support she has had from the Bush administration, but she must not requite this at the expense of India. Nuclear proliferation is not a regional question. Ms Bhutto is obviously ignoring the presence of nuclear weapons all over Asia. Why does not she suggest that the whole of Asia be declared a nuclear-weapon free zone as a step towards ridding the world of the atomic weapons?

6 Killed in Police Shooting in Uttar Pradesh

BK1606031389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, six persons were killed and several others injured in the town of Khair in Aligarh District yesterday [15 June]. The state home secretary told our Lucknow correspondent that the police opened fire when Bharatiya Kisan [Indian Farmers] Union [BKU] workers, who were staging a dharna [sit-in] near the Mandi Samiti [Market Committee] office clashed with the police in the town and turned violent. They also indulged in heavy stone-throwing and tried to snatch away the revolver from the bodyguard of the police superintendent.

Several police personnel, including two deputy superintendents of police, were injured in the incident. An additional police force has been deployed in the town to maintain peace.

Steps Taken To Halt Petroleum Smuggling to Nepal

BK1606060089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] In West Bengal, steps are being taken to prevent smuggling of petroleum goods from different parts of Darjeeling District to the Indo-Nepal border. A high-level meeting was held in Siliguri to take stock of the situation. There has been an acute shortage of petroleum products in Siliguri in the last few days, causing disruption of movement of transport in the plains as well as in the hills.

Police Arrest 5 Nigerians for Heroin Trafficking

AB1306192389 Paris AFP in French 1202 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] New Delhi, 13 Jun (AFP)—India police have arrested five Nigerian nationals at the Bombay airport for carrying more than $28 million worth of heroin, the INDIAN NEWS AGENCY, PTI, reported today.

Some 44 kg of heroin, hidden in electronic materials and false-bottom suitcases belonging to the five Nigerians, was seized, the PTI stated.

The five men, whose identity was not disclosed, were getting ready to leave Bombay for Lagos, via Nairobi, the agency pointed out.

1,000 Kg of Narcotics Destroyed by Delhi Police

BK1006081889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] About 1,000 kg of narcotics were destroyed by the Delhi police today. This was done to assure the public about the safe custody and disposal of such drugs seized by the police.

According to the deputy commissioner of police, Mr A.K. Kanth, these narcotics were seized in cases decided by the court in the past 10 years. This is the first time that narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances seized by the various important agencies were disposed off publicly in the city.

Valued at over 10 crore rupee in the international market, these comprise 700 kg of hashish, 71 kg of ganja, 81 kg of poppy husk and 60 kg of bhang and 600 grams of heroin. These drugs were burned on the western banks of the Jamuna River. Similar public disposals will be held every 3 months to destroy narcotics kept in police custody.

Iran

Kashani, Amini Discuss Leadership in Sermons

LD1606121689 Tehran IRNA in English 1204 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—Expression of Loyalty to Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i by all sectors of the society indicated that the new leader of the Islamic Republic is firmly rooted, the spokesman of the Council of Guardians said.

Delivering a sermon at Friday prayer at Tehran University, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani described Khamene'i as a pious, capable and popular personality.

"The selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader... and the pledge of allegiance from all the people has made his leadership stable, strong and indestructible," Kashani said.

Since selection by the Assembly of Experts on June 4, a day after the passing away of Imam Khomeyni, Khamene'i has received support from all state branches, including the armed forces, as well as senior religious leaders and various classes of people.

Everyday since he became leader Khamene'i has been receiving various groups and officials from throughout the country expressing support.

Kashani said although there were no plans in advance to select Khamen'i as successor to the imam, in the end it was clear that Khamen'i "is the most suitable person for this position.

"He is aware of all the secrets of politics and statesmanship and a pious, popular, sincere, and scholarly man with firm knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence—all the needed qualities of a leader."

In a speech earlier by Ayatollah Ibrahimi Amini, a member of the secretariat of the Assembly of Experts, worshippers were assured that the issue of leadership had been "easily solved".

"The (Assembly of Experts) session in which the leader was chosen, was the most beautiful, pleasant and harmonious meeting by the experts," he said.

Sixty of the Assembly's 76 members decided on Khamene'i's leadership less than 24 hours after the imam's death—a swift move which baffled many Iran watchers abroad.

Amini also said although there were currently separate individuals holding the position of supreme religious leaders and head of state, the separation was not permanent and one day one man could hold both positions.

"This is according to the condition of the day and it is likely that in the future a qualified supreme religious leader would reach this position (leadership of the state)."

Imam Khomeyni held both positions but few weeks before his death he explicitly stated in a letter to the head of the Assembly of Experts that a mujtahid (jurist), not necessarily a supreme religious leader, could become leader if confirmed by the experts.

Last week Grand Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Araki was declared supreme religious leader by several top theologians in Qom.

Montazeri, Khamene'i Exchange Letters

LD1506115389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Ayatollah Montazeri in a message to the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran beseeched God Almighty to grant success to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i in discharging the great responsibility of the leadership of the Islamic Repulbic of Iran. The text of the letter of Ayatollah Montazeri to the presence of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Your Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the chosen leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, may your blessings continue. After salutations and greetings and expressions of condolences for the irreparable loss of the great calamity of the world of Islam, the passing of the spirit of God, the illustrious leader of the liberated and oppressed people of the world, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the esteemed master, His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his noble soul, who taught the entire world the lesson of self-sacrifice and struggle, in the uprising against the Satans and arrogant people, I beseech God Almighty to assist Your Excellency who is a worthy, committed, and sincere individual and who has learned and experienced much during the struggles and the revolution.

Your Excellency always enjoyed the support of the great leader of the revolution in discharging the grave responsibility of leadership which has been entrusted to you by the Assembly of Experts so that, God willing, you will succeed in rendering worthy and constructive services to the country and to the Muslim Iranian nation which has demonstrated so much devotion to the self-sacrifice in implementing the goals of the revolution and which is still present on the stage of the revolution with all its being. By maintaining the policy of neither East nor West, you will strengthen the country and advance the foundations and principles of the luminous religion [Islam]. Moreover, you will disappoint the foreign and domestic enemies of Islam and the country and leave them despondent in every way. God willing, you will consult with their eminences the grand ayatollahs, the learned 'ulema, and committed and aware personalities, while dealing with important and epoch-making issues. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri

[Dated] 13 June 1989

The text of the reply of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Ayatollah Haj Sheykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, may your blessings continue. After salutions and greetings, I am thankful for your message of condolences for the great

loss of the world of Islam, the passing of the leader of the liberated and the hope of the oppressed, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his precious soul, as well as for your goodly prayers and your kind remarks about me, and the confirmation of the decision of the esteemed Assembly of Experts. Now that the great Islamic ummah and especially the self-sacrificing Iranian nation have been faced with such a great loss, our first duty and the duty of all individuals and strata of the people is to continue, relying on God and by strengthening the attitude of sincerity, unity, and solidarity in the great movement which was started by our illustrious late imam who devoted unprecedented efforts and endeavors for its continuation; and be confident that God's assistance will be given to the believers and the pious. I beseech God Almighty for Your Excellency's success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 15 June 1989

Ayatollah Meshkini Sends Cable to Khamene'i

LD1506123489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] In the wake of the decision made by the nation's experts on the appointment of Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Meshkini [Assembly of Experts chairman] sent a cable in which he congratulated Khamene'i on his suitable appointment. He further considers obedience to the esteemed post of leadership incumbent upon him as a divine obligation. The text of the cable is as follows:

In the name of the exalted. His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran—may your blessings continue. After greetings and condolences for the tragic demise of the free people's leader, the one who salvaged the oppressed and the deprived, the hope of the oppressed of the world, His Excellency Grand Ayatolah Imam Khomeyni—may his dust be sanctified—a tragedy which submerged all true lovers in an ocean of deep and unbearable heart-rending sorrow; the epoch-making and rightful appointment of Your Eminence—which during these sensitive times for the country and the revolution proved to be a great step and a suitable decision by the [Assembly of] Experts, may their blessings continue—causes me and the managing committee of the Global Center for Islamic Sciences to express our congratulations to Your Eminence. We consider obedience to the orders of that esteemed post, which will mean the continuation of our obedience to the exalted leadership of the revolution—may his dust be sanctified—as a divine obligation. God's benefictions and salutations upon you.

[Signed] 'Ali Meshkini, Qom

The text of reply made by His Excellency Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of Islamic Republic of Iran, is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. His Eminence Ayatollah Meshkini, the Assembly of Experts chairman, may your blessings continue. With greetings and expressions of thanks for your condolences on the sorrowful demise of the imam of the Islamic ummah, the rejuvenator of the Koran's scripture, the hoister of the flag of freedom in the world: His Excellency Imam Khomeyni—may his beloved dust be sanctified—and also thanks for the resolute support and approval which you have expressed about the decision of the esteemed Assembly of Experts. I ask the Almighty to grant us success in continuing along the path of our great leader and jurisconsult, which implies efforts aimed at consolidating the Islamic system, the rule of justice, and support for the oppressed. Without a doubt fulfilling this great obligation will be carried out with success through reliance on God and trust in His approval, as well as the cooperation and assistance of God's honest servants. I ask the Almighty for your continued success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

'Second Copy' of Khomeyni Will Unsealed

LD1506180989 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Mashhad, June 15, IRNA—The second copy of Imam Khomeyni's will was unsealed today at the Razawi College of Islamic Sciences and transfered to the Imam Reza (peace be upon him) [PBUH] Library, located inside the holy shrine complex.

Today was the birth anniversary of Imam Reza (PBUH) [peace be upon him], the 8th infallible imam of Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) household.

The first copy of the will which was kept at the Majlis, was read out by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on June 4, at an extradorinary session of the Assembly of Experts which later elected him as the imam's successor.

Present at the ceremony today, were Ayatollah 'Abdollah Javadi Amoli, Ayatollah Shirazi, several members of the Experts Assembly, professors and students of the Mashhad Islamic Seminary and a number of local political officials.

The will is to be kept at the Imam Reza (PBUH) Library, which has one of the largest collection of rare manuscripts in the world.

In his will, Imam Khomeyni appeals to Muslims to reject the East and West, calling on them to join hands to create the "greatest power in the world."

"I advise the noble oppressed nations and the dear nation of Iran to firmly adhere to the straight divine path bestowed upon them by the almighty which is independent of either the atheist East or the infidel oppressor West," the imam says. The leader of the world's

oppressed, who passed away on June 3, wrote his will in 1983, and revised it in December 1987 according to the "conditions and needs of the time."

Khamene'i Receives Condolences, Congratulations
LD1506182689 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this afternoon received separately the Sudanese minister of information and culture, 'ulema from the Ahl al-Beyt Institute, and the Nigerian president's special envoy who is in Tehran to express condolences on the heart-wrenching demise of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified.

During his meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the Sudanese minister of information and culture expressed the condolences of Sudanese leadership and said that His Holiness Imam Khomeyni was not only the imam of the Iranian people, but the imam of the entire Islamic world. That great figure lives in our hearts and, in fact, Imam Khomeyni was our inspiration for revolution in Sudan. On behalf of the Sudanese leadership, he congratulated His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i on his selection as leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

One of the 'ulema of the Ahl al-Beyt Institute, in his meeting with the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while expressing condolences on the passing of the illustrious leader of Islam on behalf of the institute's members, also expressed his allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Republic as the Guardian of the Cause [Yeli-ye Amr] of the Muslims.

The special envoy of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, while conveying a written message from the president of his country, said: The Nigerian president believes that His Holiness Imam Khomeyni was a model for peace and was a great leader for the world of Islam. He also expressed the Nigerian leadership's congratulations on the selection of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, while thanking the visiting delegations for their expressions of sympathy, graciously said: The truth is that His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, was not only a leader but also a great teacher, father, guide, and master of the Iranian nation. Referring to the fact that the spiritual presence of the imam can be felt in every part of our country, he added: The incident was, in fact, very crushing, and this bitterest experience in the history of the revolution could not be endured without God's assistance. Today we move on the same path and direction of our dear leader and imam, because the goals of Imam Khomeyni are our main goals.

President Khamene'i Receives New Ambassadors
LD2805164589 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 28 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 28, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today hailed the stance of the Panamanian Government and people against the high-handedness of the U.S. Administration as "praiseworthy to the Iranian people."

"We support any move against the rowdiness of U.S. statesmen," he told new Panamanian accredited Ambassador Guillermo Vega, who called on the president to present his credentials.

"Bullying is the cornerstone of Washington's foreign policy," said Khamene'i and drew attention towards the fact that for American statesmen, the feelings of other nations and their inclination to secure their interests "was of no importance at all." Vega seemed to agree with the Iranian president, and said Panama which was currently involved in a struggle against the U.S., "lauds the Iranian people's bravery in fighting off world powers."

Later in the day, Khamene'i received the new Yugoslav ambassador Trajko Trajkovski and told him that the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] should not only play an outstanding and "independent" role in the world but should also stand against big powers accustomed to transgressing others' rights. He expressed regret over the kowtowing attitude of certain NAM members to convince arrogant powers that the movement poses no threat to them, and said on the contrary Iran believes that NAM should be serious with big powers. Trajkovski, whose country is to host the 9th NAM summit this year, said Yugoslavia attached great importance to the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the movement.

Earlier today, the president granted separate audience to three other accredited ambassadors to Iran. Ar Jun Narsinghrana of Nepal, Vuxan Ang of Vietnam and Mamadou Saliou Syllo [all names as received] of Guinea, submitting President Khamene'i their credentials, wished for expansion of ties with Iran.

Guinean Envoy Presents Credentials
NC2805062989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 May 89

[Text] The accredited envoy of Conakry, Guinea in Tehran met Foreign Minister Mr Velayati yesterday and presented a copy of his credentials. In this meeting with our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati, the Guinean envoy expressed happiness at the expansion of ties between Guinea and the Islamic Republic of Iran and his country's desire to broaden bilateral relations.

Welcoming the broadening of relations between both countries, Mr Velayati said: Guinea has played an active political role following the revolution, especially during the war. He stressed the need for an exchange of various delegations in the political and economic fields between both countries.

Foreign Ministry on French, FRG Envoys' Return

LD1506183889 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today said the return to Tehran of the French and West German ambassadors "indicates that those countries which want to have relations with Iran have no other option but to recognize the reality of the Islamic Republic of Iran and respect the Iranian people's wishes."

A ministry spokesman said the West, after witnessing the massive turn-out of the Iranian people in the funeral service of their leader Imam Khomeyni and their united vow of allegiance to their new leader, had realized that Islam, the Islamic revolution and the imam's ideals "are the essence and nature of our system."

The West German and French ambassadors Armin Freitag and Christian Graeff left Tehran shortly after Imam Khomeyni's fatwa [religious decree] on February 14 calling for the execution of Salman Rushdie, the Indian-born British author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses".

A few other European Community members which had withdrawn their ambassadors from Tehran in a more propagandistic than political move sent back their representatives a few days later.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said no exact date has yet been set for the return of Iranian ambassadors to Bonn and Paris and that the issue was under study.

The West German Embassy, contacted by telephone, confirmed the arrival of Freitag but no official at the French Embassy could be reached.

KEYHAN Assails France, FRG

LD1406162989 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN Wednesday criticized West Germany and France for sending back their ambassadors to Tehran in response to what they have referred to as "the new political atmosphere in Iran."

"One thing that should not be hidden from the Americans and the West is that Imam Khomeyni's revealing and pounding line in confrontation with them will continue with strength," it said in a front-page editorial.

The foreign policy guidelines set by Imam Khomeyni would be a permanent basis for foreign relations of the Islamic Republic and the imam's death would not offer the least excuse for overstepping them, it added.

KEYHAN said despite the wishful thinking of the two French and West German Governments, as far as Iran was concerned no turn was likely in the normal direction of the country's foreign policy.

The editorial also echoed the words of the leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, that the Islamic revolution would never relent to the U.S. or other big powers.

West German and French ambassadors in Tehran were recalled by their respective governments last February in the wake of Imam Khomeyni's decree that Salman Rushdie author of "The Satanic Verses" should be killed for blaspheming Islam and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him].

* Country's Reconstruction Policy Detailed

46400084 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 May 89 p 10

[Text] News Department—The nation's reconstruction policies and priorities for planning and implementation were given to the government last week by the president of the Republic and the chief of the Supreme National Reconstruction Council.

Our correspondent reports that the Supreme National Reconstruction Council, formed on the orders of the Imam of the nation following the end the imposed war, and consisting of the chiefs of the three governmental powers, the prime minister, and the ministers of each sector, has approved the nation's reconstruction policies and priorities. After five months of effort and exertion in various commissions and after a visit with the great leader of the Islamic revolution by the president of the Republic and the chief of the council, the policies were given to the government for planning and implementation.

The full text of this document, which will in reality be the first planning framework for the nation's five-year economy and development program, is presented for our esteemed readers below.

A. Policies: 1 - The principle of participation by the people and effective manpower forces in every area of reconstruction, subject to specifying the qualities for participation and the case in question (reconstruction of the residential and commercial areas, to the extent possible, will be done by the people themselves and their owners, in accordance with the plan and with the government's guidance and support).
2 - Connecting damaged areas with areas prepared to help in order to stimulate popular assistance from other areas for damaged cities and rural areas.

3 - Observance of the cultural, traditional, and psychological characteristics of the local people in each executive and service measure.
4 - The creation of cooperative and non-cooperative companies giving priority to combatants and mobilization personnel.
5 - The construction of the minimum usable residential buildings and the anticipation of the possibility for quantitative expansion.
6 - Study and attention to the possibility of combining rural aggregates, consolidating agricultural lands and improving irrigation sources and channels and residential lands while retaining individual ownership (actual and legal) to facilitate services and the best utilization of more land and water for the reconstruction of rural areas and agricultural land and saving on national costs.
7 - Procurement of materials needed in the war areas with the cooperation of various sectors.
8 - Security provisions for populated areas, especially with regard to the cities and border areas, against any kind of possible attack.
9 - Securing and observing the inoperative principles concerning anti-aircraft rockets in the reconstruction of industries, strategic points and important installations.
10 - Preserving the important parts of the war ruins in order to show the history of sacrifice and resistance by the martyr-nurturing people of Iran.

B. Priorities: 1 - Oil and energy (Restoration, reconstruction, and the launching of refineries, petrochemical complexes and power stations).
2 - Agriculture.
3 - Reconstruction and operationalizing of factories producing construction materials.
4 - Housing (Priority is with housing units needing maintenance and repair. Priority is with housing units where the family has employment).
5 - Factories and industries with three characteristics have priority in reconstruction and operation: Having the most employment and production, being anti-inflationary, and using little foreign exchange.
6 - Rural reconstruction.

Foreign exchange needed for reconstruction projects in the war-stricken areas, subject to the required legal authorization, will be procured in the following ways:
1 - Compensation (in view of the Islamic Republic's existing holdings in these accounts).
2 - Special account.
3 - Minimum repayment of two years.
4 - The advance sale of each unit's surplus products in excess of domestic need (including oil, especially the Abadan refinery).
5 - The use of foreign resources in the framework of the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to special production projects approved by the appropriate authorities.

Policies To Balance Distribution and Decentralize

1 - Decentralization and expansion of the authority of the provinces and smaller units and agricultural divisions with regard to the above units, along with the komitehs and the relevant aggregates in the framework of the nation's policies, general directions and enacted laws.

2 - Popularization of the sheriff's offices and expanding the purview of their public services in various areas of municipal service by activating the municipal council to reduce the load of the government organizations and transferring it to popular organizations.

3 - Decentralizing from Tehran and the major cities:

a. - By transferring and preventing the creation of organizations and institutions whose existence is not necessary in these cities and by designating a competent center to distinguish, supervise and pursue this matter.

b. - The creation of new industrial and non-industrial cities and areas for the purpose of gradually transferring existing and non-essential industries and organizations from the Tehran municipal area to appropriate regions.

c. - Adoption of encouraging procedures and policies such as providing government services and tax exemptions and fees to guide society, specialized manpower and capital to the low-populated and deprived areas.

d. - Recommendation to the government and the Majles concerning the transfer of the nation's administrative centeralization from Tehran to another suitable area.

Petroleum and Energy Sector

1 - Planning and investment to procure the energy needed for the nation's economic and social expansion.

2 - The procurement of a comprehensive national energy project in view of the policies below and relying on energy derived from natural gas in reserves and economizing on the consumption of medium-distilled products.

3 - Maximum utilization and substitution of natural gas for other fuel and electrical materials by expanding the gas delivery network, converting urban public transportation equipment to use natural gas fuel, replacing electrical equipment with gas-burning equipment, and meeting petrochemical needs.

4 - Completing and starting of refinery projects being implemented, the preservation, equipping and greater utilization of existing oil and gas installations, the creation and expansion of refineries, and the expansion of petroleum and gas industries for the purpose of exporting surplus petroleum products.

5 - Equipping, preserving, and making better use of existing power stations, the completion of power stations under construction and the creation of new capacities.

6 - Prevention of energy waste by insulating living space and choosing suitable points for population expansion to make better use of fuel and energy in all sectors.

7 - Study and research in the use of new energy as well as study and decision-making with regard to atomic energy and other forms of energy.

8 - Expansion of the new electrical power stations on the Karun river and the Siyah Pisheh Power Station, to prevent the waste of water and procure cheap electrical power.

Expanding Petroleum and Gas Resources

1 - Increasing resources to utilize petroleum and gas reserves, observing technical and economic regulations in view of the nation's current and future known reserves.
2 - Exporting natural gas and petrochemical products and other petroleum products to replace crude oil exports.
3 - Protecting the nation's petroleum and gas reserves and increasing the reclamation of oil and gas reserves.
4 - Efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in the oil industry.
5 - Assigning priority to the utilization of combined oil and gas reserves.
6 - Investment for exploration, extraction and production in the gas and oil sector from income obtained from this same investment.
7 - Diversification of the elements of export.
8 - Giving special priority to the petrochemical and oil chemicals sector, the creation, expansion and completion of the petrochemical industries, and the allocation of a share of petroleum revenues to research in these areas.
9 - The creation of a suitable context for participation of the non-government sector in low-level petrochemical industries, the subsidiary gas industries and the oil chemical industries, and the distribution of petroleum by-products.

Policies and Priorities in the Agricultural Sector.

1 - Giving priority to agricultural growth and expansion to procure the nation's economic and political self-sufficiency and independence.
2 - Designing a pattern for cultivation and making the necessary arrangements to make the desired use of the relative merits of the regions.
3 - Taking the measures necessary to preserve, stabilize and expand agricultural lands and to prevent their fragmentation and to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands and orchards to non- agricultural uses except where necessary as designated by the proper authorities.
4 - The preservation, revitalization, expansion and actual utilization of renewable resources (forests and pastures) and water resources by increasing the added value and reducing losses through government investment in fundamental affairs and the designing of projects for forests, pastures, and waterways and investment priorities for the non-government sector in the matter of revitalizing and utilizing of pastures and producing feed, wood and ancillary and affiliate industries.
5 - Design and implementation of a utilization system to facilitate mechanization, cost reduction and best utilization of the elements of production, in view of conditions in the various areas and the nation's resources.
6 - The expansion of national and non-dependent industry by creating and establishing suitable and needed industries in the agricultural sector and rural industries, and the conversion and completion of units for the purpose of increasing the added value of production, increasing exports, increasing the level of employment, preventing losses and guiding the location of industries not affiliated with agriculture to places not suitable for agriculture.

7 - Significant increase in the share of agricultural investment in the nation's total investment, especially in the matter of preserving and revitalizing natural resources, the implementation of plans to expand land and water resources and increasing use of production resources.

8 - Continuous support for investment in this sector, the removal of obstacles in economic, political, social and administrative areas for those who produce agricultural products and the creation of the necessary motivation and facilities for activities in this sector through basic investment by the government, including water.

9 - Guaranteed repayment of credit needed by the government to carry out agricultural plans, for that group of investors who lack sufficient security and collateral.

10 - The allocation of foreign exchange for the timely procurement of basic needs, industries affiliated with agriculture and production such as stores, machinery, tools, spare parts, fuel, and construction materials.

11 - Priority to the use of export foreign exchange obtained by exporting agricultural crops in connection with affiliated sectors and industries.

12 - The transfer of all or part of the shares of production units and their affiliated installations and equipment to the agricultural sector while designating a base price through public auction to the non-government sector (the workers in the relevant units, cooperatives and the private sector) and the banks in a way that does not lead to the fragmentation and dissipation of the units, and allocation of the proceeds to investment in needed employment-producing basic and production affairs in the above sector where the people do not invest.

13 - The adoption of support measures by securing the losses and insuring agricultural crops, pricing crops on the basis of the true costs of production, guaranteeing the purchase of basic crops and coordinating the nation's export and import regulations with the agricultural sector's needs, for the purpose of preventing negative effects by imports on domestic production.

14 - Emphasis on agricultural research and educational and promotional planning, by increasing investment in agricultural research and educational and promotional planning by at least 50 percent per year so that the percentage of these investments will reach respectively 1.2 percent and .5 percent of the agricultural sector's gross production per year.

15 - The procurement and training of agricultural manpower in various areas of study using all of the nation's resources and providing material and spiritual motivation to attract specialized and skilled manpower, especially in the deprived areas.

16 - The procurement of the necessary resources to expand the rural, tribal, fishery and agricultural cooperative companies and units and fully support them to bring about the growth of production and enhance the life of the sector's producers in all its dimensions.
17 - Expanding health care, treatment, cultural, educational development (with emphasis on rural methods) and social services in the nation's agricultural areas.
18 - The creation of development organizations in the deprived and suitable areas based on the regional studies already undertaken and underway. With comprehensive planning such organizations can be created in the suitable areas with credit for potential production resources and in the areas lacking resources to alleviate deprivation and prepare for expansion.
19 - Identifying and estimating the resources in the nation's deserts which have various applications and planning for their development.

Water Sector

1 - Expansion of water resources by impounding surface water through the construction of reservoir, diversion and water-retaining dams and building up underground water tables, and studies to find and extract fossil waters.
2 - Planning and creating the necessary resources for the best use of the true resources and capacity of existing installations and study and investment for the reclamation of urban and industrial runoff water.
3 - Preparation and creation of the necessary educational resources to improve irrigation methods, increasing the benefits of using the water obtained, improving the water distribution network and system, and setting a suitable water price to prevent the waste of water.
4 - Attracting popular participation in the matter of investing to create, preserve and expand small water installations, irrigation and drainage networks, dams, tunnels and aqueducts.
5 - Emphasis on spreading flood waters and the artificial nourishment of underground water tables, as well as the covering of rivers.
6 - The rapid design of a comprehensive water plan and attention to basic studies for it, the designation of authorized limits for the use of underground water and attention to studies on the transfer of water from water-rich areas to areas with little water.
7 - The construction and procurement of parts and equipment as well as the education and training of the manpower needed in the water sector and the use of advanced methods of irrigation.
8 - Priority to planning and investment for the utilization of the water of border and common rivers and the implementation of the Abadan Island Irrigation project according to the plan proposed by the Ministry of Power.
9 - The preservation and maintenance of existing dams and installations, the expansion of irrigation and drainage networks and the creation of related channels.
10 - Planning to transfer water from the water-rich basins to the nation's dry central flats to protect regional resources and logistics.
11 - Supporting popular investment in the water procurement sector.
12 - The creation of special legal facilities for the learning, study and implementation of the nation's important projects such as dams and power stations.

Development Expansion Sector Policies

Policies for Expanding the Nation's Regional Development and Urban Construction.

1 - Decentralization of the management for project planning and urban and regional development by expanding the authority of local and regional decision-making and executive organizations and the formation of regional development organizations, especially in the very vast provinces with low populations, or, conversely, provinces with high populations.
2 - Creating a balance in the distribution of the nation's population, prevention of growth in the large cities, and the preservation of agricultural lands by guiding and driving new urban expansion from crowded areas to empty and inactive areas with abundant mineral reserves on the basis of regional and area projects.
3 - Monitoring the quality of production standards and the efficiency of materials and supervision of implementation in the housing and construction sector by creating popular organizations (the Construction System).
4 - The expansion and completion of all urban services, observing the priorities of the health care and educational institutions by collecting appropriate lawful taxes on profits from urban property and lands based on urban expansion projects.
5 - Expansion and analysis of research centers for urban construction, architecture, construction and housing.

Housing Sector Policies.

A. - Policies to Expand Residential Centers: 1 - Planning and taking the necessary measures for development and construction work based on economizing with foreign exchange, energy and construction materials and observing the necessary health, security and technical standards.
2 - Guiding new employment opportunities to new residential centers.
3 - Creating financial facilities and encouraging the people to plan financially to procure housing.
4 - Giving priority to the procurement of housing for the families of martyrs, combatants and deprived classes and improving the rural environment and housing.
5 - Encouraging maintenance and repair of housing units rather than destroying and rebuilding them.

B. Land: 1 - Preparing the land for the expansion of housing centers with attention to keeping agricultural lands separate for small cities and intermittent for the medium and large cities.
2 - Offering to sell government lands not suitable for agriculture to set the price of land, observing the interests of the agricultural sector.

3 - Encouraging the non-government sector to prepare and market lands for housing within the framework of policies to protect agricultural lands.

C. Technology: 1 - Use of non-dependent and local materials.
2 - Investment in the production of construction materials instead of importing them.
3 - Expanding the technology of concrete in the large and medium-sized cities and the procurement of the needed resources.
4 - The substitution of domestic petrochemical products for wood and steel in construction.

D. Investment: 1 - The assignment of housing investment to the private sector, the cooperative sector, the foundations, the banking system and the non-government investment companies in the public sector for sales and rentals.
2 - Encouragement in the construction of small housing units, providing banking facilities at the preferred rate to builders from private units, rental units, ownerships transfer and other procedures that lead to a suitable reduction of the foundation area for each housing unit.
3 - Supporting dense housing construction in medium and large cities on an individual basis and as required.
4 - Help preparing land for low-income persons through the benefits gained rom preferred rates in the transfer of land.

Manner of Popular Investment and Participation in Production Units.

1 - The people may invest in the agricultural, industrial, mining and services sectors, and the government will support agriculture, mining and industry in that order of priority as opposed to other affairs and activities.
Note: Investment in the industrial sector must be such that machinery and equipment for the agricultural, mining and energy sectors must be completed and procured to the extent possible.
2 - The public sector (the ministries, government institutions, banks, government companies the national industrial organization, etc.) are required to sell at public auction all the production, service and commercial units in their possession, with the exception of the important and strategic units within a specified time, or to offer the relevant shares for sale on the stock exchange, subject to whether or not the stock exchange accepts shares of the profitable and unprofitable production units.
Note: Priority of preference in the purchase of the shares transferred from the ministries, government institutions and government companies goes to workers from the relevant production units, combatants and families of martyrs, respectively.
3 - The government must prepare the necessary bill or bills to provide investment security for the people in matters of production and the creation of other facilities and then necessary incentives in this area, such as allowing tax exemptions for production units whose production investment costs are procured from profits, and these bills must be submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly for approval.
4 - The government must provide the necessary facilities for all government and non-government sectors and cooperatives in the matter of importing raw materials, machinery and other production needs, as well as the possibility of repaying capital investments and procuring raw materials through the export of products.
5 - All companies and organizations who are named as subject to public regulations are also eligible for this project.

Best Expansion and Use of Mines, Mining Industries and Foundries
1 - Encouragement and expansion of exploration activities as follows:
a. Procurement of the raw materials needed by industries in operation and under implementation.
b. Procurement of raw and processed minerals found within the country rather than exporting them.
c. Other mining resources existing in the country.
2 - The creation of research centers for the purpose of preserving and improving existing mineral materials production systems and conducting research to produce mineral substances.
3 - The procurement of non-flammable raw materials, flux, aluminum and etc from within the country.
4 - Investment to procure (produce and purchase) machinery, spare parts, equipment and to build factories producing mineral substances.
5 - Study and planning to find and utilize mines for valuable metals.
6 - Creation of industries to convert mineral substances to make greater use of domestic sources, create added value and export raw materials and surplus mineral products.
7 - Completion and start-up of the projects being implemented and the establishment of new steel units (priority is to completing projects being implemented).
8 - The creation and expansion of alloy industries (steel, copper, etc.).
9 - The optimum use of equipment, specialists and skilled manpower with emphasis on the education and training of manpower.
10 - Reforming recruitment regulations with the aim of maintaining and attracting specialized manpower in mining and mining and steel industries.
11 - The creation of facilities to lead the nation's banking system's credit and other investment resources in the public sector to this sector in the areas of geology, exploration, utilization and research.
12 - Attracting the people's participation in exploration, utilization and creation of mineral industries, ancillary mineral industries and the creation of facilities and the removal of wage and financial obstacles in this connection.

Roads and Transportation Sector

The design of a comprehensive transportation project in the framework of economic and social expansion and the nation's strategic affairs to create a comprehensive, searching, optimal, decentralized rapid network with a suitable price and flexible in the transportation of freight and passengers in view of the principle of self-sufficiency and relying on domestic resources, along with the creation and expansion of a communications network for production and population centers and the deprived areas by increasing added value and through the growth of production potential in the other sectors by observing the following policies and priorities:

a. Policies: 1 - Economizing on energy consumption.
2 - Reducing foreign exchange and technology dependence.
3 - Suitable ties between the agricultural and production centers and the points of consumption to facilitate the transport of products produced.
4 - Creation of export terminals and the expansion of non- petroleum exports.
5 - The participation of the people and the use of non-government capital resources.

b. Priorities: 1 - Maintaining, improving and equipping existing railroads and the completion of railroads under construction and stressing the expansion of railroads and the completion of the network for maximum freight utilization.
2 - Maintaining and equipping existing roads and creating new roads.
3 - Completing and equipping large ports and the creation of several small ports, and the appropriate expansion of ocean-going freight vessels.
4 - Investing to equip existing airports and if necessary creating new airports and suitably expanding transport aircraft.
5 - Organizing and strengthening transportation resources, equipment, regulations and affairs (railroads, roads, sea, etc) for the suitable use of existing vessels and fundamental installations.
6 - Education and training of committed and specialist manpower in transportation affairs.
7 - Planning for the export of services to earn foreign exchange.

Ways to Procure Needed Foreign Exchange for Reconstruction Projects

A. Barter (in view of the Islamic Republic of Iran's holdings in these accounts).
B. Special Accounts.
C. Minimum repayment period of two years.
D. Advance sales of the products of each unit in excess of domestic need.
E. The use of foreign resources in the framework of the regulations and rules of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to special production projects approved by the relevant lawful authorities.

Under Paragraph E thee following must be observed:

1 - Use of foreign resources must be made with full preservation of the interests and authority of the Islamic Republic in the framework of the nation's foreign policy and without creating the slightest political dependence.
2 - Sufficient guarantees for the transfer of technology and the training of expert manpower and priority on the use of domestic raw materials and intermediate goods and utilization of all of the nation's existing capacities.
3 - The volume and kind of foreign resources and foreign exchange investment as well as their sources must be selected within the framework of limited, specific, important and basic projects such as steel, power, gas, oil, and petrochemicals on the basis of clear and codified scheduled plans with a view to their regional and national effects and their share in international trade, the course of the expansion of world technology and with justification of the return or foreign exchange savings.

At the same time, the above sources and capital must be employed along with and for the purpose of the completion of investment from foreign exchange earnings and the chain of the nation's important industries. It is necessary that at least 20 percent of the nation's foreign exchange earnings be allocated for projects covered by this paragraph.

4 - Foreign exchange commitments must be carried out in such a way that the date for repayments to begin will correspond as much as possible with the date of utilization of the relevant projects and the sale of their final products, and in any case in view of the nation's foreign exchange earnings in each of the five-year periods, necessary and unavoidable foreign exchange payments must not bring the country against problems and delays.

Council Continues Debate on Executive

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[Video recording of deliberations of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution in Tehran, with Habibi acting as rapporteur; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nuri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I did not realize that these discussions would be so time-consuming and prolonged. That is why I did not ask for a turn to speak, as the generalities in my mind did not seem to be so problematic. It would be a good idea if there would be a wrap up of the discussions which have already taken place. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, all issues are interconnected. That is, if we are to enter a discussion on the executive branch, we know that the executive is a responsible official, a group, a leadership, or an administration that embarks on planning. It may be a long-term program, a medium-term program, or a short-term program. It plans policies, allocates priorities, and aligns credit and foreign exchange. It proposes that the training should be stepped up in some areas and that health issues should be attended to in other areas; our country's conditions

dicate that agriculture be given priority in some areas and that industry take priority in other areas. Our education should have an industrial bias, our health system should be such and such. All these are definitely interrelated. In fact, trying to view the executive as disjointed is inconceivable.

Our municipality is not a government organization, but as our municipality does not presently have its council and a regular setup, the Interior Ministry acts today as a substitute instead. If you ignore this, even then the Interior Ministry is related to it in its capacity as an executive body. Your industry has political aspects, security aspects, and various other aspects which are necessary for the growth of your industry. Incidentally, these are intensively intertwined among themselves. The first phrase which we have used here is the phrase due to the interrelated nature of the executive, because it is completely interrelated and thus, we cannot even question the validity of its being interrelated.

However, concerning the issues pertaining to centralization and division well, these are new terms. We cannot say that as of now, division is centralization and vice versa. What we glean from the utterances of his eminence the imam is that there should be centralization in the executive branch. Ostensibly, the term used is centralization in the management of the executive branch, which means that the ultimate responsibility lies with one individual. If we were to say that centralization referred to here means a sort of division, while the imam says that it stipulates the duties of the executive, it would be tantamount to a misinterpretation of terms on our part which we cannot do in these debates. [passage omitted]

There is something which is not very clear to me and may perhaps become clear after the session. What is being discussed by our superiors at present is: With one stroke we created a prime minister with powers. Incidentally, all the brothers voted for him. I do not understand whether the debate on centralization means that there is a problem in the absolute centralization of power in one individual, or centralization of power in the president, or in any individual, even if he is a prime minister. The plan presented to the council by Mr Musavi—and which is a new concept to me in the light of these discussions—indicates that there are two opinions.

One opinion is that the president should be the head of the executive and should have the power for certain reasons. These reasons will be discussed at the proper time. The other is that... [unintelligible interruption from the house] No, that has been discussed. You should have said that earlier. Therefore, I think it is necessary to state it now. The other opinion is that it should be regarding the prime minister for the reasons specified earlier: that the Majlis should be the controlling factor. [passage omitted] This is the plan given to the council, given by the gentlemen themselves. The prime minister participates in removing and appointing all the ministers. All the plans are under his supervision. The ministers are answerable to the prime minister. If this is the motion, then what is today's discussion for? At least for me it has created doubts.

If the discussion is as Mr Kho'iniha said in his remarks—and Prime Minister Mr Musavi should also concur as he also said that centralization of power should ultimately be concentrated in one individual—then today's discussion brings all this under question. This means that the discussion is this: We wish to bestow a series of powers on our management, on our councils. Under such a system, who will your minister be answerable to? Who will the prime minister be answerable to? Who will the head of the executive be answerable to? Their responsibilities should be clarified right here. We cannot say: We wish to divide power and spread it, and all management officials, with their varying opinions and abilities, should enter the arena and be given various powers. This is exactly where the responsibility is diluted. If such powers are given to them, then where is the centralization and in what form? In that case, centralization has no meaning, unless we work on a federal system or another plan which even puts this very centralization under a question mark. Thank you.

[Habibi] Mr Hadi Khamene'i.

[Khamene'i] I am in favor. I have written my name among those in favor. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] The bill being discussed at present is whether the power should be polarized and what the reasons are for this. Our dear brothers have been making comparisons with the other two branches. Once again it should be said that there is no such comparison. The vast field present in the executive branch does not permit us to compare it with either of the other two branches. They mentioned the discrepancies which we experienced in the past, and Mr Habibi answered them briefly. I would like to add that there is no certainty that the shortcomings only stem from the appointment of ministers or pertain to the Constitution. There are many others, such as the mode of implementation, the implementers, the managers, and their motives and opinions, all which contributed to the fact that the work was not performed correctly. [passage omitted]

I feel that there is no need for us to come here and explain whether the executive branch is a whole or has various components. We wish to have a logical division which will not create problems. In every correct and healthy system, the level of responsibility is in proportion to the authority and vice versa. It is not said at any point that authority should be given to this extent and responsibility to another. [passage omitted]

What is worth considering is that suppose we stress centralization, there is another very important principle here and that is the sovereignty of the people. If there is

a clash between these two, we should pay more attention to it. If it is said that because the president is elected directly by the people, his responsibility should be such to justify this election, then perhaps this situation can be remedied. However, this does not mean that we sacrifice the more revered principles for this purpose merely to be able to answer this objection.

It is also debatable that responsibility should lie with an individual, that one person should be held accountable. What kind of responsibility do the people and officials want from an individual? Is it because it becomes necessary to give responsibility to one person so that he may be able to answer when the people have a question, objection, or grievance? It is not so. At present, in the country's executive setup, some officials do not permit, for example the merging of the Ministries of Agriculture and of Construction Jihad, despite their overlapping activities, merely because of certain considerations. [passage omitted]

As this issue has been scheduled to be discussed in detail at a later session and we have a time limit I will conclude my remarks.

[Musavi-Ardabili] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I also would like to express my views on the topic under discussion and will take a few seconds of these gentlemen's time. [passage omitted]

As regards the question of whether management in the executive should be a single management, and ultimate responsibility resting with one prson, this has many merits and advantages. However, it is not without disadvantages, dangers, or hazards (?in general). Division of work is an attractive phrase, it is very interesting and has its merits and demerits. We know that in the present Constitution, the gentlemen stipulated a division of work which we feel today has had certain shortcomings. Now the same gentlemen are present in the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution and are here. Personally at that time I was also in favor of this dvision of work, however minor. I do not exactly remember whether I was against it or just not every strongly in favor of it. The reason was that Iran had been under a single management, which is akin to dictatorship, for some 20 or 50 odd years, and the crystallization of a single management is dictatorship. [passage omitted]

My opinion is this: My decade of experience in judicial matters, tackling difficulties, grappling with issues without being able to reach a solution, has also convinced me of the fact that in executive matters, the management should not be divided. If we give one section to one, another to that one, and work remains undone, whether on the basis of greed, poverty, or for the sake of God [as heard] or lack of endurance, I do not know why; whatever the reason, it is extremely harmful and entails losses.

If we say well let us put it all in the hands of one person and return to centralization, be careful that you do not go too far. We should say we want centralization, a single management, so that gradually responsibility falls to one individual. We cannot give responsibility without giving power so we will give power. We cannot give power without giving facilities and without giving absolute power. So we will give that as well. Then what will it be? All that is left to give then is a crown and a throne!

I am certain that all of you who are present here are in favor of a division of responsibility, but not in favor of work being suspended or permitting the situation to become chaotic. [passage omitted]

[Bayat] [passage omitted] I do not wish to enter into a detailed or verbose discussion here, but would like to point out to Mr Nuri that if centralization is to embodied by a single person, it would be extremely naive. This will mean the personification of centralization. This will be against all (?decorum). [passage omitted]

Whether you like it or not, you will be forced to accept a division. You have no other choice. If you accept a presidential system, you will have to accept the ministers. A finance minister and a budget minister cannot both be responsible for planning. A planning and budget minister cannot be responsible for the Industry Ministry. The industry minister cannot be responsible for the Information Ministry. Whether you like it or not, you believe in division. Therefore, the issue is not that one person should be in charge and give instructions. [passage omitted]

As Mr Musavi-Ardabili mentioned, we do not say that there should be no centralization but the fact is that we should accept the (?implications). There are two considerations present here. I am one of those who is opposed to centralization in the person of the president or the prime minister. Even though the prime minister also has some higher controls, it is still not acceptable to me. This is because his vote of confidence is from the Majlis, and so his removal will be from the Majlis as well as his appointment. The president is elected by the people so it is naturally not proper that we bring him to the Majlis every day. Obviously there is greater control from the Majlis, but even then, I am opposed to it. [passage omitted]

The controls for responsibility should be specified and its modus operandi be stated clearly. We do not understand centralization in an individual unless there is an issue at stake. We do not understand centralization as a single management and whether we like it or not, the meaning of centralization is that responsibility should be clearly spelled out, so that we should know that this gentleman is responsible to this extent, answerable to this extent, and so on. Salutations to you.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. I would have liked the gentlemen who spoke to have brought up some issues. If these issues had been raised, then I would not have seen the need to talk. But since some points were not said, I think that it is useful that I say them.

In my opinion, some of the deliberations are being either intentionally or unintentionally confused. For example, the current discussion is trying to interpret the committee's intentions toward handing over all duties to one person, as was the case, for example during the era of Mozafareddin Shah. This is not what the committee wanted to say. We know what the committee wanted to say. The committee propounded two methods. One method was that we place a president at the head of the executive branch and the other was that we place the prime minister at the head with the same situation that prevails today. That is, the ministers will continue their duties, the Majlis will continue its duties, the judiciary will continue its duties, and the Armed Forces, the police, and the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic will be separate. The issue was who will be in charge of this, the president or the prime minister? This does not mean that this person will do everything. This will be a dictatorship, and so on and so forth. Well, if this was what the committee intended, then the committee's rapporteur should come out and say so. But if this was not the intention, then why are we leading the discussions toward a point that does not exist?

Also, a word was picked up which, I hope, was a slip of the tongue, God willing. Frankly speaking it is not correct to say that we should call this system a presidential system or something else. This is because, this interpretation is made because in our society now the president does not have a very good situation. [sentence as heard] How is it that the person who is elected by the people will become the head, but a person who is elected by a mediator, say the parliament, will not be the head? The word should be something else. You can call this sytem a republic or popular rule. If the people vote, then it will be a presidential system. But if someone is chosen by a mediator, like the deputies, or is proposed by someone else, it will be another system.

What I want to say is about the words that are being used. Let us take the word dictatorship which the gentlemen are using. This word has an unfavorable impact on people. In other words, this implants imaginary things in the minds of the people. If the proposal that has been propounded is ratified, will we actually be moving toward a dictatorship? We have a system where there is a leadership and the Armed Forces are in the hands of the leadership, the authorization of the president is in the hands of the leadership, and the Majlis can call the president to account. We intend to propose that the Majlis be able to do this in the future, too, whether a president or someone else is in charge.

The Majlis can call this person to account and interpellate him, even in the present situation. It can deprive this person of his ministers. The leadership can remove this person and the Majlis can vote against him. The head of the Supreme Court can say that he is not a fit person. This person does not have the Armed Forces, the police, and the country's propaganda network in his hands and he always has to work within the framework of law. What kind of a dictatorship is this? Instead of inculcating the word dictatorship in the people, we should remember that the true meaning of dictatorship is when a shah ruled and he did whatever he wanted to do and he was not accountable to the law either. This is the meaning of dictatorship.

In a country where the minister has to be approved by the Majlis, if he commits a slight violation, the Majlis can question him, interpellate him, and remove him. There is no place for this word. In other words, the gentlemen should propound these issues in a way that will not have ill effects on society and give our enemies the chance to talk later.

The gist of the issue and what you should focus on in your discussions should be whether we should divide the executive work or place it in the hands of one person with the existing division—that is to have the ministers continue their duties with one person as the head who will be accountable so that the people, the Majlis, and the leadership will know whom to refer to. This is the issue.

When you say we should divide duties, you mean that we should create four branches. We have already divided things. Some of the executive duties have been taken from the head of the executive branch, whoever he will be. There is no system in which so much has been taken from this person. Look at the United States, Britain, France, or India. Who do we want to mimic? We do not want to mimic anyone. We want to think for ourselves. So let us divide things and create four branches.

As for the proposal by the gentlemen that the president will introduce the prime minister, the prime minister will have the ministers at his disposal and will have the power to hire and fire them—then what will the duties of the president be? It will be exactly like now. The president considers himself the head of the executive branch. This will mean that there will be interference. The president will continuously put pressure on him and state his wishes. He will have advisers, power, a tongue to speak, his own prestige; he, too, will be responsible before the people. Who will answer the people's problems?

We are sitting here worrying over an imaginary thing, and we have forgotten the people's problems. Look at the case of the Commerce Ministry. I am stating this as an example. At a time when the most important issue in the country is that of high prices and distribution, the president and the prime minister have not yet been able to introduce a commerce minister for such a long time now. Who will answer the people now? What has the

Majlis done? What punishments has it implemented? What has the leader done, and what have the people done? To whom should the people refer? Who must account for this?

The leader interfered and granted permission to the prime minister to appoint someone. Three months later the prime minister dismissed him. Who will answer the people now? The same thing will be repeated tomorrow; whether we want a prime minister or a president will be topics to be discussed later on. When we do, we will discuss this point. At any rate, there should be one person who will be answerable to the people and to the Majlis. If your concern is that the Majlis should supervise, then I, too—I who am more a Majlis person than any one of you—believe that even if the president will be elected by the people, the Majlis should be able to bring him here and to question him and interpellate him so that in this way the people's deputies will supervise. Therefore, the issue should be on this.

First of all we want to solve the true problems that we know the people have. We have understood that we cannot solve these problems in this way. This, too, is a topic that will be discussed later. We do not want to touch on topics that should be discussed later on. The gentlemen here sometimes discuss these topics and say that we should say whether this person should be a president or a prime minister. If the prime minister will also do all the things that I said, then it will be good. In other words, if this group accepts that we have a prime minister who will be in charge, then this will be good. If they say that this person would be a president, this is good too. But a composition will be a new type of division which will be worse than now. We do not have four branches now, but tomorrow we will have four branches. This is what the outcome of what the gentlemen here have stated it will be.

Therefore I think that we should not transfer our concerns to the people with our euphemisms. The issue is neither one of dictatorship nor of arbitrariness in view of the situation that we have. We will have a president for whom the people will vote once every 4 years. For God's sake, someone will come to power. It will take him 7 to 8 months in order to master what he will be doing. Then 4 years later he will have to get the people's votes for one more term. How can he—with this Majlis, this leadership, and the prevailing conditions in the country—change into a dictator?

Therefore, let us not propound this issue in this way. Let us discuss other things. There are political and other issues which are of importance to us. Some gentlemen are speaking about freedom. I don't know how this centralization in the executive branch can be against freedom.

Sometimes here reference is made to the United States. Since our people hate the Americans, they should not cite the example of America. Britain is the mother of America. How do you see the situation in Britain? If we act like them or like the Americans, will we be progressive? This is a topic that we will discuss later. At any rate, let us choose interpretations that fit the discussions and concentrate on whether or not a higher official is necessary in the executive branch. This is the issue. The issue is not whether he will interfere in affairs or do the job of the commerce minister, the plan and budget minister, or the industries minister. Each person in every ministry will do his job. The minister will be accountable to the Majlis. The prime minister or the president will be the person above these people. The Majlis can bring a minister, the prime minister, or the president here and interpellate them.

Therefore, if we concentrate on these points, I think that the gentlemen will not worry that we want to enter bad territory. Voting will be easier for us, too. Also, I, too, agree with what Mr Musavi-Ardebili stated. I, too, am conditionally in favor of concentration.

[Hashemian] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Regarding the powers of the Executive, whether it is in the person of the president or the prime minister, I am opposed to both cases and my suggestion is for a middle course which I will explain later. In a country's administrative system, there is an infrastructure of one head, the main body, and peripheral departments. There should be a balance between the head of the system and its actual form as is being sought in today's world. [passage omitted].

We are not merely formulating laws for today; we are not approving articles for today only. Suppose one day we have a president and you hand all powers to him. You put the voice and vision in his hands, but he will not be a leader like the imam, whose rule, greatness, and intelligence are such that he can stem all deviations. In the future, you will not be able to get a leader like the imam so quickly. But if you put all this power in the hands of a president or a prime minister, tomorrow he will thwart the path of the leader. Then you will say: No, our system is such that we have a Majlis, we have controlling factors, and this and that. You should know that you have given all this power to the prime minister or president. Do you think that the idolatrous Shah's regime did not have a Majlis? Did it not have a parliamentary system? Are all the dictators in the world functioning without parliaments? They have a parliament which attends to all the formalities but the dictator implements them himself as he wishes. He creates a parliament tailored to his wishes.

Controls are fine, but the power should be distributed right from the beginning and so that it is not difficult to make decisions. Power should not be concentrated in an individual merely to make him (?accountable). You will say: No, he is the head of the Executive, and the ministers and governors are doing their own work, and the Majlis is performing its own duties. Well, this is right

as regards the individual. However, if we do not distribute power justly and so that it does not create problems in decisionmaking, then the danger is always present. The ministers also will have to be on his side. When a Majlis is a heterogeneous body of 270 members, it is possible he will choose certain individuals as his attorneys who are also on his side and ready to do his bidding. This means that he will create conditions so that only those who are his supporters come to the Majlis. The same applies to the ministers. We should close the path on this prospect and not permit power to be concentrated in the hands of one who would be suitable only if his intentions as well as his actions are noble. Otherwsise, it is fraught with dangers. [passage omitted]

To those brothers who say that the imam's wishes are that we should concentrate power in one individual, I say to them that I did not deduce any such meaning from his remarks. They have interpreted it thusly. In fact, the imam even said that he has nothing to do with the manner of centralization and that it has to be decided by this Council. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the tenure of a presidency is not more than 4 years. How many countries in the world have changed this tenure to more than 4 years? There have been quite a few. First, the presidents were freedom fighters and later, they fell into various traps. What is the reason for the present situation? Is it the weakness of the laws? I disagree. If this council does an expert job, this can also be remedied. If this is the reason, it is perhaps because the laws have been poorly written. [passage omitted]

Part of the blame lies on the war which resulted in discrepancies. These discrepancies do not have any connection with the laws. There are other factors as well. Only a small part of the blame goes to the laws, and the laws can be easily corrected. This should be done, but the powers should be controlled and divided justly. Unfortunately, I have spent most of my time on introductory issues. I had written down some other issues which, if I can, I will state at the next session as they are suggestions I would like to make. Salutations.

Pakistan

Defense Secretary-Level Talks on Siachen Begin

BK1506112589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The talks between defense secretaries of Pakistan and India on Siachen issue began in Rawalpindi this morning. The Indian side to the talks was led by the defense secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra, while the Pakistani side was headed by Defense Secretary Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi. The talks will continue tomorrow. Earlier, the Indian defense secretary called on the adviser to prime minister on defense, Major General M. Imtiaz Ali, retired.

Indian Official Meets President

BK1506153289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] The talks between defense secretaries of Pakistan and India on Siachen issue began in Rawalpindi today. The Indian side to the talks is being led by the defense secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra, while the Pakistani side is being headed by Defense Secretary Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi. The talks will continue tomorrow.

The Indian defense secretary called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad this afternoon and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. He also had met with the prime minister's adviser on defense, Major General Imtiaz Ali, retired.

Soviet Group To Arrive 17 Jun for POW Talks

BK1506132189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 15 (AFP)—A 15-member Soviet delegation will arrive here Saturday [17 June] in an attempt to secure the release of Soviet prisoners of war (POWs) held by the Afghan resistance, the Soviet Embassy said here Thursday. The delegation includes relatives of the POWs, journalists, officials and the imam of the Moscow mosque, an embassy press communique said.

Delegation members were ready to meet officials of the Pakistani foreign ministry, journalists, businessmen and representatives of the Afghan mujahidin "to facilitate the fullfilment of their humanitarian mission," it said.

The delegation will stay here for about two weeks, the communique said. It expressed hopes that the "release of the Soviet POWs will contribute to the development of mutual understanding and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Pakistan."

Last week a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said a delegation of mothers of Soviet POWs would visit Pakistan for talks with the mujahidin to seek release of their sons.

A request for permission to send the delegation was made by the Soviet Union and "we offered no objection on humanitarian grounds," the spokesman said.

The last round of talks between Soviet Embassy representatives here and the mujahidin on the release of Soviet POWs ended in failure on June 6 with the resistance insisting on swapping Soviet captives for thousands of missing Afghanis, resistance sources said.

The mujahidin dispute the figure of 313 soldiers that Moscow say were in the guerillas' hands. But they decline to give an alternate figure.

It was the third meeting between the two sides since their first round of talks in Jeddah in December.

Opposition Effort To Topple Government Deplored
BK1606040089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] Professor M.D. Khan, special assistant to the prime minister on political affairs, has deplored the attempts by certain opposition elements to destabilize the Pakistan People's Party governments at the center and in the provinces, and to create unrest in the country during the prime minister's visit abroad. Professor Khan said the prime minister's U.S. visit marked the beginning of a new relationship between the two countries, and helped restore Pakistan's prestige as an independent, democratic nation.

Religious Leaders To Campaign Against Government
BK1606044089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] A public meeting was held under the aegis of the United 'Ulema Council at Mochi Darwaza in Lahore on 15 June. Maulana Mufti Zafar Ali Nomani presided over the meeting. Muslim religious scholars who spoke at the meeting announced their decision to launch a campaign against the federal government and for enforcement of the Islamic system in the country. They also announced that public rallies and conventions will be organized to create awareness among the people in this regard.

Communist Party Reemerges From Underground
AU1406184389 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 13 Jun 89 p 7

["ZR"-signed report: "Communist Party of Pakistan Is Legal Again"]

[Text] Prague—After almost 40 years of activity underground, the Communist Party of Pakistan [CPP] will be legally operating again; its recent third congress decided this.

The congress was held in Pakistan on 25-27 May, and was attended by 127 delegates from all over the country. The congress was originally convened in 1985, but had to be postponed because of the difficult situation under the then Ziaul Haq regime.

The delegates heard a report of the CPP Central Committee, submitted by Central Committee General Secretary Imam Ali Nazish. The report, among other things, analyzed errors committed by the party in the past. The congress approved a new program, the tasks of the party in the nearest future, and the general line for the coming years.

At its first session, the new Central Committee reelected Imam Ali Nazish as CPP Central Committee general secretary.

Japan Grants Yen Aid To Improve Infrastructure
OW1306090689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0841 GMT 13 Jun 89

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Japan will provide a total of 42.01 billion yen in grant aid to Pakistan, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

Of the total, 1,858 million yen will be used to improve infrastructure in rural parts of the capital Islamabad, 770 million yen to improve medical facilities in Punjab Province and 779 million yen to promote a disaster prevention program along the Indus River. The remaining 794 million yen will be the first installment of a 3,975 million yen assistance over three years to finance a high-voltage electric power research institute, the ministry said.

Toyota To Set Up Car Assembly Plant in Pakistan
OW1606014089 Tokyo KYODO in English 2311 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 16 KYODO—The Toyota group of companies will set up a car assembly plant in Pakistan in collaboration with a leading Pakistani business house, a Pakistani minister said Thursday. It will be the second Japanese car assembly plant in Pakistan after one built by Suzuki Motor Co.

Industries Minister Ali Nawaz Shah told the National Assembly that Toyota has been given permission to build the plant out of six applications from Japan and Europe.

According to details given by the minister, Pakistani interests led by Rafiq Habib of the Habib group will have a 50 percent equity in the project, with 25 percent each to be contributed by Toyota and the general public.

Netherlands To Give $28 Million for Projects
BK0506023089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Jun 89

[Text] The Netherlands will provide $28 million to Pakistan to help finance projects for rural development, small-scale industrial development, and the import of essential commodities in the current fiscal year. This was stated in the agreed minutes of the Pakistan-Netherlands meeting, which were signed in Islamabad yesterday. The meeting also reviewed the program of economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Netherlands.

Textile Manufacturers Go on Indefinite Strike
BK0906032489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0021 GMT 9 Jun 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, June 8 (AFP)—All textile processing units in Pakistan began Thursday [8 June] an indefinite strike to force the government to withdraw a 12.5 per cent sales tax on blended and processed fabrics, industry sources said.

The sales tax was announced Saturday, when the budget was presented to the National Assembly by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The action by the textile industry was mounted following an inconclusive meeting in Islamabad Wednesday between industry representatives and the government, the sources said.

An eight-member committee of the business community met with Finance Minister Ehsanul Haq Piracha to sign an agreement to overcome the crisis following the proposal of sales taxes on 44 items to meet international monetary fund conditions.

Textile is Pakistan's biggest industry and one of its major sources of foreign exchange. The imposition of a sales tax would effect exports of garments and other value-added items, the sources said.

An attempt by the government to impose a sales tax in the early 1980s failed after meeting with similar resistance by the industry.

Steel rerolling mills, paper merchants, and retailers connected with these industries have also joined the strike to increase pressure on the government, the sources said.

Pakistan's garment exports have experienced a phenomenal growth, growing from 40 million US dollars in 1977-78 to 452 million US dollars in 1986-87.

Sri Lanka

Gandhi's 'Conditional' Withdrawal Rejected

BK1506121989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 15 Jun 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Excerpts] Colombo, June 15 (AFP)—The Colombo government reacted sharply Thursday to Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi attaching conditions to withdrawing his army from Sri Lanka, and said such statements confirmed fears of a continued Indian presence.

In an apparent response to Mr. Gandhi's statement Wednesday that a pull out of Indian troops from Sri Lanka would be "conditional," the Foreign Ministry said the only condition was the Sri Lankan president's decision.

"The only condition on which the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) was invited to Sri Lanka and the only condition that should be satisfied for the withdrawal of the IPKF is the decision of the president of Sri Lanka.

"The request for the withdrawal of the IPKF made by the president of Sri Lanka to the prime minister of India has already satisfied this condition," the statement said.

It came barely hours after Mr. Gandhi virtually rejected a deadline set by Mr. Premadasa to remove Indian troops from the island and as agitation for and against the withdrawal rocked Sri Lanka. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne had said earlier that Mr. Premadasa expected a response to a message he had sent to Mr. Gandhi 10 days ago.

"We have sent him a letter and the president expects a reply," Mr. Wijeratne told reporters here after the weekly cabinet meeting late Wednesday.

Mr. Wijeratne reiterated that Colombo would be unable to host the heads of state summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in November if the IPKF is not withdrawn by then.

The Foreign Ministry statement did not directly name Mr. Gandhi, but said it "regretted that certain statements have been made both here and abroad to support the continued presence of the IPKF in Sri Lanka.

"Such pronouncements will only have the unfortunate effect of confirming the fears in the minds of the people of Sri Lanka that the IPKF has come to this country to remain and not to return."

The six-page statement quoted extensively from Mr. Premadasa's speech of June 1 at a Buddhist ceremony where he publicly announced that he wanted the foreign army withdrawn by July 29. [passage omitted]

The latest developments came as top LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leaders met Mr. Premadasa Thursday, ahead of peace talks aimed at ending Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

An LTTE delegation headed by London-based strategist Anton Balasingam called on Mr. Premadasa at his home here before an official dialogue could begin Friday, a separate government statement said.

It described the meeting as a "courtesy call" and said ministerial level discussions will begin Friday, but did not give further details.

A key figure at the first round of talks, Mr. Wijeratne, who is also deputy defence minister under Mr. Premadasa, has been dropped from the ministerial delegation. The statement gave no reason for it.

Indian troops sent to the Tamil-populated northeast ended up fighting LTTE guerrillas after the group repudiated the July 1987 peace accord and refused to surrender their weapons.

Rallies Held To Protest IPKF Pullout Proposal
BK1606044689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jun 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has claimed that the only condition to be satisfied for withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] was the decision by President Premadasa. This was said in a Foreign Ministry statement issued in Colombo yesterday. It may be recalled that India has categorically stated that the withdrawal of the PKF is linked with the full implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The security of Tamils in the island and devolution of powers to the Northeastern Provincial Council have to be ensured before the withdrawal.

Meanwhile, more than 15,000 people took out a massive rally in Jaffna yesterday protesting against Mr Premadasa's proposal to withdraw the PKF. Addressing the rally, the Northeastern Province chief minister, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, said the withdrawal should not take place before ensuring adequate protection to Tamils and other ethnic groups. There were huge demonstrations in the eastern region of Sri Lanka also. In Batticaloa, about 15,000 people took part in a massive demonstration demanding the resolution of the ethnic problem before the withdrawal of the PKF. Protest rallies were also held in (Arabattadikhai) and Kokkadichcholai.

The president of the United Front for Repatriates in Madurai has urged the Indian Government to give protection to the Tamils in Sri Lanka in view of the JVP's [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna-People's Liberation Front] threat to their lives there. An all-party conference of Congress-I and its allies in Tamil Nadu has urged the continued presence of the PKF till the safety of the Tamils is guaranteed.

Daily Assesses Premadasa's Proposal
BK1506151489 Colombo SUN in English 3 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Need for Restraint"]

[Text] President Premadasa while seeking the withdrawal of the Indian troops from Sri Lanka underlined the urgent need for people to act with the utmost restraint until that is achieved.

The President's rationale evidently stems from the basic need of maintaining peace and normality that will be considered as ideal ground situation for the alien troops to leave the country as per original agreement.

Speaking at a pinnacle ceremony, the President called on the people not to be violent and to work towards peace with patience. That could expedite their departure he emphasised.

He also said that the presence of a foreign army on our soil was a slur on Lanka's self-respect. Indeed the responsibility of making the conditions conducive for their early departure lies with the people themselves.

The President's appeal to the people comes in the wake of reports about certain plans by extremist elements to stage varied protects and boycotts that may flare up into a new security crisis.

Two days ago the Foreign Minister at a Cabinet press briefing revealed that the government will provide protection to Indian nationals against any threats that may be levelled against them.

Now the President's statement seems pertinent in this respect too. He does not want anyone to rock the boat so to say by jeopardising projected troop withdrawal with untoward activity.

The country today is facing a grave situation with a multitude of security problems. Protest demonstrations, strikes and hartals are a common phenomenon. The government has been making concerted efforts to resolve these crises, that keep cropping up over and over again: Just like some hydra-headed monster.

Violent reprisals including individual killings and massacres are being committed in various parts of the country. Despite the much publicised presence of the Indian troops the situation in north-eastern Lanka seems to be going from bad to worse.

The prevailing ground situation will only compound the political crisis faced by the government. And getting the Indians out soon will admittedly be a difficult proposition. That is why the President is seeking the people's support.

At a time when the security situation in the country is threatened as it is today, it is imperative that all peace loving people endeavour to act with restraint. They should remain basically calm and unprovoked and refrain from adding fuel to the fire. This usually happens through idle gossip and rumour mongering.

One must act with extreme caution and resist all overt and covert acts aimed at causing general panic and intimidation.

The law enforcers and security forces themselves must be well briefed in the fine art of restraint if the people must respond effectively in maintaining peace and stability.

Foreign Minister on 2d Round of LTTE Talks
BK1506112289 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jun 89

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign affairs and minister of state for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, said at the cabinet news briefing last night that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers

of Tamil Eelam] delegation has arrived in Colombo and the second round of talks between the government and the LTTE will begin tomorrow.

LANKAPUVATH reported that he said the LTTE had requested that (?they not be rushed) as serious discussions had to take place and President Premadasa has agreed to give them all the time required.

Mr Wijeratne said that mutual confidence has been built between the government and the LTTE. The government had kept to each word and honored everything it said. Thereby, the LTTE's trust and confidence in the government has been firmly established.

In response to a question, Mr Wijeratne said that adequate protection will be given to all citizens in the country, including the Indian community, against any threats.

The foreign affairs minister also said that he had driven around the entire (Vita) area earlier in the evening and has found the situation to be normal. [passage omitted]